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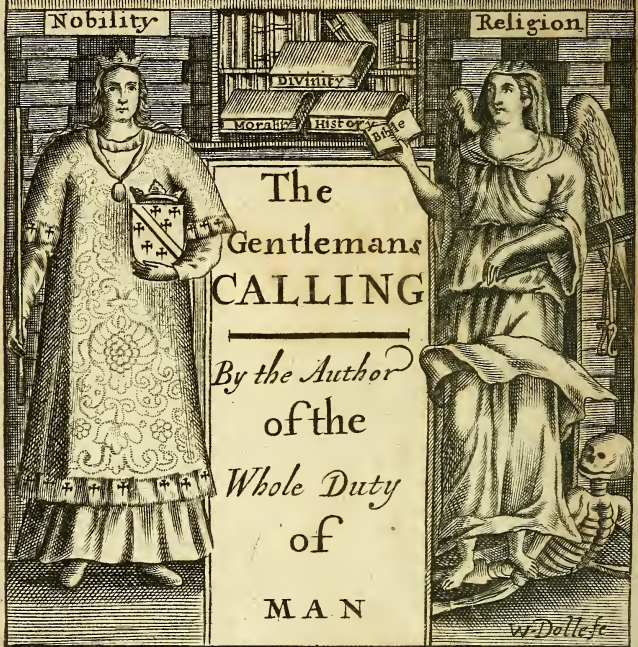
REPUTATION

When I prepared my seat —The Aged stood up Princes layd their hand on their Mouth. Iob: Chap: 29 ver: 7 8 9

Nobility

Religion



The Gentlemans CALLING

By the Author of the Whole Duty of

MAN

W. Dolle.fe

London

Printed for Robert Pawlet at the Bible in Chancery Lane

THE

Gentleman's Calling.

Written by the Author

OF THE

Whole Duty of Man.

1 Cor. vii. xxiv.

Ἕκαστος ἐν ᾧ ἐκλήθη, ἀδελφοὶ, ἐν τούτῳ μενέτω παρὰ τῷ Θεῷ.

LONDON,
Printed by *R. Norton*, for *Robert Pawlet*, at the Sign of the Bible in *Chancery-Lane*, near *Fleetstreet*, 1673.

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TO THE *BOOKSELLER.*

SIR,

I NEED not tell you with what ſucceſs you publiſhed the Excellent Treatiſe, *THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN:* It is your Felicity to be again Inſtrumental to the profit of this Church and Nation, by your Edition of theſe Religious and Prudent Inſtructions. And although the Addreſs be not ſo Univerſal in this, as in the former; yet *this* will have a large influence upon other Conditions beſides *Gentlemen:* Their *Converſe*, if reformed, will be exemplary, and operative upon others. A *Gentry* that would afford an obedient Ear to theſe Admonitions, and a *Clergy* that would to *Piety* and *Learning*, joyn *Humility*, *Modeſty* and *Sobriety*, will be the beſt Humane means to recover this ſinful *Nation*, and oppreſſed *Church*, from the Miſeries, Spiritual and Civil, under which we now groan. So that the *Argument* is well choſen, and it is ſo managed, that I know not what a *Reader* that is ſomewhat moroſe can deſire, which is not here. The *Author* keeps cloſe to his intended *Province* and Deſign, his

Reasons are sinewy and convincing, his *Reproofs* are severe and grave, yet pleasing; and they whom he chides, must needs love him. There is nothing in his *Periods* redundant or defective; he hath a *Native Elegancy* that invites his *Reader*; *Variety* of Learning couched, not vaunted; and a *Perspicuity* such, as will make his Reasonings appear to a weak Eye: A *Manual* which is enriched with all these Graces, shall (I trust) not only be frequently and attentively perused, but that it will lively affect, and sit close to the Reins, and penetrate the Heart of the *Reader*, especially that *Reader* for whom it is designed; and for this Blessing on the *Gentry*, it is our Duty to solicite the *Divine Goodness*.

SARUM,
27. *Octob.* 1659.

Your assured Friend,

Hum. H.

THE

THE

PREFACE.

1. THE *Authority of Cuſtom hath ſo much a more general prevalency than that of Truth; that he that ſhall adventure to aſſault that with this, may be thought not to have well digeſted the prudent Caution of our Saviour, Luke* 14.31. To ſit down and conſider whether he be able with ten thouſand to meet him that cometh againſt him with twenty thouſand; *for doubtleſs ſuch, and much greater is the odds between theſe two Litigants. And to the imputation of this unwarineſs I cannot but foreſee the preſent Deſign very liable.*

2. GENTILITY *has long ſince confuted* Job's *Aphoriſm*, Man is born to labour, *and inſtead thereof, has pronounced to its Clients the Rich man's* Requiem, *Soul take thine eaſe, eat, drink*

and be merry. *A* Gentleman *is now supposed to be only a thing of pleasure, a creature sent into the World, as the* Leviathan *into the deep,* to take his pastime therein, (*and the better to complete the Parallel, to devour his underlings too*) *and then 'twill be no wonder if it be adjudged a ridiculous Solœcism to attempt to define his* Calling, *whose very Essence is thought to consist in having none. Nay, perhaps it will be deemed not only absurd but malicious, a Levelling project, of robbing him of his Birth-right, of degrading him from those priviledges, which belong to his quality, and of moulding him again into that vulgar Maß, from which divine Providence and humane Laws have distinguished him. But from this jealousie I dare trust the ensuing Leaves to be their own Vindicators.*

3. I HAVE *been no unconcerned (much leß insulting) Spectator of the Depressions the* Gentry *have fallen under in these latter years, but have pay'd them my just tribute of compassion: yet I confeß, I think those scarce worthy a regret, in comparison with those voluntary descents, too many of them have made from true worth and vertue. 'Tis sure a far leß deplorable spectacle to see a* Gentleman *spoiled of his Fortune by his Conscience, than his Luxury, and to behold him under the stroke of the Headsman, than*

under

under those more infamous Executioners, his Lust, or Intemperance. Yet I fear if the Martyrology even of these suffering Times were scanned, Venus *and* Bacchus *would be found to have had many more Martyrs, than* God *and* Loyalty.

4. BUT *I confess it an impertinence thus to balance the two mischiefs of doing and suffering ill, since 'tis certain the latter is to be resolved into the former, and has no existence of it self, but what it derives from that. Punishments are but the results of sin: and therefore whatever Malignity is in the Effect, becomes intirely chargeable upon the Cause, and we are to look upon our Vice not only as our greatest, but our only unhappiness. This Consideration shews us the source of all our* Sufferings, *and is it self no less obvious, than those; though one would think it as concealed as the head of* Nilus, *that should only observe how many other Originals of our Calamities are assigned, whilst this is scarce dreamt of. This* Jonah *is suffered to sleep securely in the Ship, while her more innocent Fraught is* cast over-board, *Jonah* 1. 5. *Every the least sparkle from without is charged as an Incendiary, when alas, like* Ætna, *our own bowels send out that fire, which has so near reduced us to ashes. But as in Diseases we account the Discovery of the Cause the first and most necessary*

step

ſtep to the Cure; ſo certainly is it here, the conviction of our guilt is a moſt indiſpenſable Preparative towards the eaſe of our Preſſures, and we muſt be heavy laden *in the Chriſtian ſenſe,* Matth. 11. 28. *before we ſhall ceaſe to be ſo in the Civil.*

5. BUT I *fear men proceed in this affair rather like Mountebanks than good Phyſicians, uſe ſome palliating Medicines to allay the Effects, or perhaps Anodynes to ſtupifie the Patient, and wholly neglect the Root of the Malady. Nor do* I *appropriate this Error to the* Gentry, *'tis too viſible that all ſorts and qualities have too juſt a claim to it, to let any one go away with the Incloſure. But becauſe the preſent Deſign makes them my peculiar Province,* I *ſhall, waving all others, addreſs my ſelf at this time to them only, with this moſt paſſionate Requeſt, that they would not uſe that cruelty to themſelves, for which* Amalek *ſtands branded towards* Iſrael, Deut. 25. 18. *by their perſevering Impieties ſmite and deſtroy thoſe feeble and faint Remains of their former Felicities; but that they would now at laſt ſeriouſly advert to this their ſo great and important concernment, and pitch upon the true* Achan, *that has thus long* troubled their Iſrael. *And that being done, that ſtory directs the next ſtep of the Proceſs, even the bringing him to execution, cutting that off, which will elſe in-*

fallibly

fallibly bring down a Fatal Excision upon themselves. Nor is this to be deferred, for alas the Disease is come to too great a height, too dangerous a Crisis, *to admit any delay of the Remedy.*

6. WHEN Egypt *had smarted under a succession of miraculous plagues for detaining the* Israelites, *the Servants of* Pharaoh *importune him to release them, and conclude their advice with this Pathetique enforcement,* Knowest thou not yet that *Egypt* is destroyed? *And God knows I may but too properly give the same edge to mine; For alas,* Gentlemen, *are not your Estates wasted, your Priviledges violated, your Splendors eclipsed, your Persons restrained, your Families broken and shattered, your Dignities trampled upon by the meanest of the Vulgar, and finally your selves quite transposed in your station, now made the* Tail who were once the Head, Deut. 28. 44. *And is it not yet time to dismiss those Sins which are the Authors of all this? If you are still of* Pharaoh's *mind, and resolve to retain them, you are certainly no less obstinate than he, but much more irrational. He had somewhat of visible advantage to tempt him to detain the* Israelites, *they were his Slaves, wrought hard at his work, built him Cities. But how far is that from the Case here! They are not your Slaves, but your Task-masters,*

which

which you are so unwilling to part with, those that set you to the vilest and most servile Drudgeries, and are so far from bringing you in profit, that I may boldly make the Apostles challenge, Rom. 6. 1. What fruit have you had of those things? *And doubt not the only account you can bring in of your Harvest, must be the Inventory of your Miseries. We are witnesses of many Houses, many Cities they have demolish'd and laid waste, but we have no structure of theirs to shew, but a* Babel *of Confusion.*

7. BUT *alas, these your secular Ruines are but their modest and petty out-rages. Take another view of them, and it will like* Ezekiel's *Vision,* Ezek. 6. 8. *present you with more and* greater abominations than these, *even the* abomination of desolation in the holy place. *Your sins have not only desolated your own houses, but Gods. That* Beauty of his Ornament *which he set in* Majesty, *Ezek.* 7. 20. *hath by these your detestable things been exposed to spoil and pollution. We are not yet grown so old in our miseries as to have out-worn the aggravation of remembring our happier estate. And how sad, how wounding a contemplation is it to compare the past and present condition of* This *Church? When the* Temple *was rebuilding, the joy of that restauration could not suppress the grief of those who remembred*

the

the so much more Glorious Fabrick of the first, but they laid the foundation in their tears, the Text says, They wept with a loud voice, Nehem. 3. 12. *But what tears, what ejaculations can be bitter or loud enough for us, who are to lament not partial and imperfect repairs, but total ruines and vastations, that see the materials of our* Sion *now reduced to dust and rubbish, who once saw them happily compacted, built together as a* City at unity in itself.

8. AND *while we thus* remember Sion, *and are our selves* by the waters of Babylon, *'tis sure but proper we* sit down and weep, *bid, as those Captives,* Psal. 137. *a solemn Adieu to all entertainments of joy and pleasure. And would God we all, particularly you to whom I now speak, did as exactly parallel them in this sad and pious resentment, as we do in the motives of it, that so your quarrel to sin might be accended to its full height, as that which robs you not only of your spiritual, but (that which many of you have more gust of) your carnal joys also. 'Tis your sins, I would I could say yours alone, which have been the persecuting* Sauls, *that have thus* made havock of the Church. *The* Securities, Profaneness, *and* Licentiousness *of your prosperous days made the first breaches in her walls: and now the* Impenitence *and incorrigibleness of your cala-*

calamitous, like the Edomites, cry down with her, down with her even to the ground. *'Twas amongst the Jews a* Capital Guilt *to* curse *a* Parent, *and shall it now pass for an easie, or no crime, not only to curse, but destroy our common Mother, to abet and maintain those Troops which thus defie, yea invade her? O why should you not at last recal your exiled Piety, and assume a holy and becoming indignation against these her cruel, her implacable Enemies?*

9. BUT *this you cannot be supposed to do, whilest you arraign only* other *mens sins, and leave your* own *out of the Indictment. I doubt not many of you do with displeasure perhaps more than enough, charge her ruine upon the immediate Instruments, accuse the bold Intrusion of ignorant Teachers, of having depraved her* Doctrine; *Ambition and Envy of impatient Inferiours, of subverting her* Discipline; *the Pride and Faction of busie Spirits, of disturbing her* Peace; *the greedy Avarice of Sacrilegious persons, of devouring her* Patrimony. *And these I shall not deny to have been the* Weapons *that thus have mortally wounded her. But let it be remembred, that these were wielded and whetted by the more general impieties, from whence they borrowed their destructive power. And therefore to* transfer *the*

the guilt here, is but the artifice of slaying Uriah with the Sword of the children of Ammon, *which you know acquitted not* David *from being a Murderer. No, God knows, here lies a Carkass of a poor bleeding* Church, *but which of you our Elders are qualified for the purgation the Law assigns in that case,* Deut. 21. 8. *which of you can say,* our hands have not shed this bloud, neither have our eyes seen it?

10. YET *the less capable you are of thus* washing your hands in innocence, *the greater need you have to* wash *them in* Penitence, *and therefore since as you are* Sons *to this* Mother, *the Office of* Avenger of bloud *devolves on you;* O bring forth fruits of Repentance, *by discharging that part faithfully; drag out these* Criminals *which have taken* Sanctuary *in your breasts, and there dwell securely, as in a* City *of* Refuge, *and* hew them in pieces, *as* Samuel *did* Agag before the Lord. *And as your incentives to this are infinitely greater and more pressing, than in other* murders, *so will the effects also vastly transcend those of common Justice. That only revenges; but this may repair the mischief, recal the vital spirits, and reunite the scattered limbs of this mangled body. Such an Omnipotency is there in sincere Repentance, that*

it

it is able even to effect a Resurrection. O that you would be ambitious of working this Miracle, and by this pious Prodigy beget your Mother, *that you would weep so long over her ashes, till that moisture had rendred them* prolifical, *and you see her spring out of her* Urn.

11. THIS, *this is your only way of reversing that extirpating* Decree, *which these* Hamans *(your sins) have procured. And if you neglect this,* Mordecai's *menace to* Hester *will be too applicable to you: if God in his unfathomable mercy should* cause deliverance *and enlargement* to arise from some other place *to this poor desolate Church, yet your selves can expect nothing but Destruction. If you have no sense of the desolations of* Sion, no pity to see her in the Dust, *but still chuse to cherish those impieties which have brought her thither; yet even they will at the last, avenge her quarrel, bring You those miseries, the sense whereof it will be impossible for you to avoid, or extinguish.*

12. FOR *alas, to represent your sins to you as the Originals meerly of Temporal, whether Private or Publick Ruines, is to give you too fair and flattering a portraicture of them: these are but the light preludory skirmishes to a more dismal slaughter, the Prologue to the Fatal Tragedy. Take their full character from*

from the Apostle, Rom. 6. 21. The end of those things is death, *even death eternal. It is our usual comfort against the persecutions of men, that they can pursue us no farther than to the grave: there, as* Job *speaks,* the weary be at rest. *But this Tyrant in our own breasts has no such limits to its malice, but then especially begins, when all other cruelties cease, tortures infinitely by the gnawings of that* worm which never dies, *and the scorchings of that* fire which never *shall be* quenched.

13. AND *now who can sufficiently wonder at the infatuation, that You should demur upon the dismissing of so treacherous a Guest, that You should cherish this Viper in your bosoms, which You already feel eating your Bowels, devouring all your temporal felicities, and yet takes those but in the way to your Heart, your more precious and eternal part? 'Tis the common Maxime even of those that receive advantage by the perfidiousness of others, to love the Treason, but hate the Traitor: but here is that Rule quite inverted; You hate the Treason, are impatient of the afflicting consequences of your sin, yet love the Traitor, hug that in your closest Embraces. The Apostle indeed forewarns us of the* Deceitfulness of sin, *Heb.* 3. 13. *but sure this is a pitch beyond that; this is not deceit, but inchantment, some powerful* Philtrum *it*

must needs be, that can thus make men in love not only with deformity but disease.

14. BUT *all the* Magicians of Egypt are not able to stand before Moses, *this Magick is not so irresistible, but that Reason and Religion will yield You countercharms, able to dis-inchant You, if You will but suffer them to come in to your aid. Do but once step out of the Devils Circle, the actual vertiginous pursuit of your sinful appetites, and give your Faculties some intermission, so much breath from that hot chase as may qualifie them for a calm considerate view of other things, and then 'tis certain you will discern, that Vertue has a much more ravishing appearance, infinitely more delectable and enamouring, than all the Devils* Opticks *could put upon your highest and most gustful sensualities. Do you only bestow some attentive looks upon her; let her once in at your eyes, and then leave her to make her own way to your heart. And this is sure a very moderate request; that You will but vouchsafe to look upon what is thus amiable. And with what pretence can you deny it? You who, to gaze on those transitory Beauties which are only your snares, stick at no difficulty, will be content to come (those of you that have no other motives) even to Church upon that errand: O do not here put off your curiosity, where alone it may avail you, but*

rather

rather take this opportunity of hallowing that (hitherto prophane) part of your temper.

14. IT *has been none of the Devils meaneſt or unluckieſt Arts to infuſe prejudices into mens minds againſt* Chriſtian Practice, *by repreſenting it in the moſt averting* forms. *He* Changes ſhapes *with it, and as he transforms himſelf into an* Angel of light, *ſo he does this into one of* Darkneſs, *makes it appear a ſtate of the moſt* diſmal ſadneſs *and* horror, *a* region *of* Antipodes *to all Joy and chearfulneſs. And how much more ready men are to take the* Devil *at his* word *than Chriſt at his, who profeſſes his* Yoke eaſie *and his* Burden light, *appears too viſible in the general averſeneſs thoſe have to* Piety, *who never ſo much as tried it, but take up implicite confuſed* prejudices *againſt it, and retain thoſe as faſt, as if they were the products of many years coſtly experiences. And 'tis to be feared, theſe have taken the deepeſt root in the richeſt Soil, they ſeeming no where more to flouriſh, than among you of the higheſt Quality. Yet ſure, of all others, You are moſt obliged to eradicate them, they implying ſuch a groſs injuſtice, as any ingenuous mind muſt be aſham'd of.*

16. YOU *will your ſelves readily pronounce that* Judge *not only corrupt, but impudent, that condemns a perſon whoſe cauſe he never heard: yet if You*

will but reflect, you will find your own verdict rebound upon your selves, with a Tu es homo; *for 'tis evidently your case here. It is time for you therefore to be so just, if not to Vertue, yet to your own Reputations, as to retract that condemnatory sentence, you have past upon her, and put on so much at least of the* form *of Justice, as to give her a fair Trial. But this you cannot do by hearing the tongues of men and Angels plead for her, none but her self can manage her cause, you must admit her into your society and converse, take her into such a familiarity, as may bring her within distance of your Observation, before you pronounce of her. In short, if you will indeed render your selves competent Judges, whether a Vertuous* life *be a pleasant or a dismal thing, enter upon it, and let your own experiences be your informers.*

17. I CANNOT *suspect the* age *so degenerous, as not to believe there are divers particular persons among you, who have made the experiment, and to their Testimony I dare appeal, and doubt not they will from Judges turn Advocates, and recommend it to you, and sure you will have no cause in this instance to wave your wonted Priviledge of being tried by your* Peers, *to except against their judgment in the* case, *who being placed in equal circumstances with you, must be supposed to understand your utmost*

Tempta-

Temptations to Vice, from whence alone all the seeming difficulties and uneasinesses of Vertue do arise.

18. *IT were the work of many Volumes to describe the several distinct Advantages towards a pleasant Being, which are wrapt up in this one comprehensive Felicity. I shall instance only in that, to which the ensuing* Tract *particularly relates, and that is that it furnishes you with a succession of very Agreeable and Chearful Imployments. Vertue is of a busie and active Nature, and as in its several Operations it has an opposition to all the several sorts of Vice, so in its very Constitution and Principle it bears an avowed Antipathy to that one fertile Seminary of most other Sins,* Idleness; *and sure the rescuing you from that is no* contemptible *Benefit. For though you seem to challenge it as a considerable part of your Inheritance, that you may live and do Nothing, and are very tenacious of that Claim; yet, 'tis most evident, that what you contend for, as your Priviledge, your selves esteem your burden, yea so much so, that to be rid of it you cast away Estate, Health, Soul and all for company, imploy your selves the most ruinously, rather than endure to be Idle; nay, quite confute your own Pretensions to ease, by those laborious and toilsome Vices, which you are fain to call Pleasures, to render them tolerable, but have certainly no pre-*

tence to that Title on any other score, but that they keep you doing.

19. AND *now what more grateful Office can possibly be done for men in this Condition, than to shew them how they may free themselves of this load without contracting a worse; I mean the guilt of those things which like* Rehoboam *converts* Whips *into* Scorpions, *yet are now fain to be resorted to; as the only instruments of their relief. And this a Christian* Life *will be sure to do for you; It will constantly provide you with innocent divertisements, nay much more, it will give you business, so excellent, and worthy the dignity of your Natures, so Noble and answerable to the Splendor of your Qualities, so every way agreeable to the aims of Rational Men, that you will have cause to acknowledge with Our Church, that* Gods Service is perfect Freedom.

20. I SHALL *not undertake to give you a particular view of all the Severals of those Employments; Those* Precepts *of the Gospel which assign your Tasks, do sufficiently inform you of the Nature and Excellency of them: my whole Scheme is comprised in that One, which directs an Attendance on* that *Calling wherein God hath placed men, and therefore I am to treat only of those particular* Duties *which are incumbent on you as* Gentlemen, *and*

therein

therein ſhew you that conſidered as *ſuch, you have a* Calling, *and ſo free you of that reproach and miſery of being* unprofitable burdens *of the Earth, and then evince to you alſo that* that *Calling is ſo far from implying any thing of real toil or uneaſineſs, that it is only an Art of refining and ſublimating your* Pleaſures, *rendring them more guſtful and exquiſite, and ſo will (if attended to) make good to you in earneſt your miſtaken pretence to a* Life *of ſenſuality and delight.*

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For more particular Concernments, See The Whole Duty of Man, *and* The Decay of Christian Piety, *Written by the same Author: Both sold by* R. Pawlet, *at the Sign of the* Bible *in* Chancery-Lane, *near* Fleetstreet.

THE

THE GENTLEMAN'S CALLING.

SECT. I.

Of Buſineſs and Callings in general.

1. HE that by *ſloth* and improvidence diſſipates and conſumes that *Stock* which is properly his own, falls juſtly under the blunt Cenſure of Folly, and uſually under the ſharper and more ſmarting Penance of Poverty and Want: But he that is but a deputed Manager, if he neglect his *Depoſitum*, is liable to a heavier weight both of Obloquy and Diſcipline. The weakneſs of the one may poſſibly meet with ſomewhat of pity; but the falſeneſs and treachery of the other is the object of an univerſal deteſtation, and is oftentimes very ſeverely ſentenced by thoſe, who, if they would impartially reflect, would find themſelves deeply involved in the ſame guilt.

2. GOD has placed *Man* in the World, not as a *Proprietary*, but a *Steward*; he hath put many excellent things into his poſſeſſion, but theſe in truſt, to be not only kept, but negotiated with, and by traffick improved to the uſe of the true owner: Yet herein dealing as a moſt bountiful Maſter, by not only promiſing tranſcendent Rewards in the future to his fidelity, but even annexing at the preſent (as *to the Heifer that treadeth out the Corn*) a moſt liberal ſubſiſtence, interweaving his Intereſt ſo with his Duty, that the diſcharge of it is his only means of being happy even in this world.

3. THIS certainly is the ſtate of mankind in general; every (*I mean Rational*) perſon having ſomething of this kind intruſted to him. No man that hath underſtanding, be that of a higher or lower ſize, but hath variety of abilities of one ſort or other, and withal that actuating power, which ſhould ſet them on work. And then ſurely he that hath not been excluded from the receipts, muſt not pretend an exemption from the diſburſements, the tasks, but is under a ſtrict obligation of improving what he hath thus received, of bringing in fruit to the Granary, as well in order to his own account and joy in the auditing of the Harveſt, as alſo to the glory of God from whom alone he derives (and muſt impute) both the ſeed, and irrigation, and the very increaſe. And he that on theſe Grounds and according to theſe meaſures decently adminiſters his Province, ſeduloufly attends his duty in this matter, will find himſelf

himſelf placed in ſuch an active ſtate of buſineſs, that he ſhall have little cauſe to ſuſpect himſelf neglected, or forgotten by God and Nature, or placed in the world without a *Calling*.

4. FROM what is thus indiſpenſably required of all men, no one *rank* or individual of that *ſpecies* can plead an immunity. And therefore till thoſe whom *Birth*, *Education* and *Wealth*, and the common dialect of the world hath made known by the ſtyle of *Gentlemen*, ſhall think fit to expunge the latter part of that title and diſclaim the nature of *men*, as they are willing to do the duty, they muſt certainly retract this error, and acknowledge they have their ſhares in this common obligation.

5. NAY, indeed if they could ſo far imitate the *Prince of the morning*, as to ſucceed to that rank which he was willing to leave, I mean to aſcend above Humanity and aſſume the nature of Angels, yet even thither would this purſue and overtake them. Among all the Orders of that divine Hierarchy they would not find one Patron or Preſident of Idleneſs. For as the ſpirituality of their eſſence renders them more agile and active, ſo that activity is perpetually exerciſed in employing the divine abilities they have received, to the glory of God the donor: and that not only in bearing a part in that Celeſtial Quire which inceſſantly ſings his praiſes, but in the more laborious and ſervile offices of being miniſtring ſpirits, yea even to thoſe to whom both in reſpect of nature and innocence they are infinitely

ſuperior. And this they do with perfect alacrity and chearfulneſs, thinking it their greateſt honour and dignity to be thus buſied. Their *regitive Power over the world*, ſaith *Gerſon*, *is not ſo ſuitable an ingredient for a* Magnificat *of their compoſing, as that greater dignity of receiving and performing Gods commands*: An evidence how much the meaſures of honour differ between the Courtiers of Heaven, and Earth, the Inhabitants of that refined, and this groſs Region. Thus then the proſpect lies before the *Gentleman*: if he chuſe either to look level on the ſame nature with himſelf, or direct his eyes upward on that of the Glorious ſpirits that encompaſs Gods throne, he will not in all the Records of Earth or Heaven find ever a *Patent* for ſloth, any Clauſe of Exemption in this univerſal Law.

6. NAY, if this *man in honour* would bid farewell to his Birth-right, and become *like the beaſts that periſh*, Pſal. 49. 20. if he could be content, in purſuit of this one fancied priviledge of a *Gentleman*, to renounce all the real ones of a man, and make *Nebuchadnezzar*'s puniſhment his option: yet neither the field nor the forreſt could give him Sanctuary, afford him any number of aſſociates to aid, or but countenance him in his mutiny againſt this divine decree, they would rather be his tutors and monitors to obey it. For what rank even of the moſt *ſavage* animals is there, which we can indict of the not employing thoſe faculties they have received? Are they not generally in a perpetual and regular motion to thoſe ends

ends for which they were created, in continual exercise of those powers with which they are endued? Yea some of them with such improvement to all their necessary purposes, that it hath raised a doubt whether they act by instinct or reason, by fancy or judgment. *Pythagoras* is discernably on their side: and *Aristotle* that was less kind to them, seems by one saying to have yielded the cause, when of *those creatures which*, he saith, *want reason*, he confesseth *that fancy supplies its place.* I need not take part in this dispute, whatsoever their faculties or Talents are, none can doubt of their use of them, or whether this their uninterrupted obedience to the Law of their Creation reflects the proportionable glory on their Creator.

7. TO descend one degree lower yet; The very *inanimate* creatures afford their consort to this divine harmony; every one of them perform those offices, fail not in the exercise of all those (not unactive) qualities God hath put into them. The *Sun* hath received a power of cherishing and enlivening terrestrial bodies, and it folds not up its rays, but communicates and dispenseth them freely. The *Earth* has received a power of fructifying, giving sap and verdure to that which grows upon it, and it withholds not that vital moisture, but like a tender nurse sends it forth liberally to all that expect nourishment from her breasts; and so proportionably to all other parts of this great body. And that all this serves to illustrate the glory of that omnipotent wisdom

which hath placed them in this so excellent a subordination, is most visible without the help of a perspective. When the Queen of *Sheba* saw the magnificence and regularity of *Solomon*'s Court, she brake out into an admiration of his wisdom: And surely a far greater occasion is ministred to all those who contemplate the admirable order of the Universe, with all transportation of Soul to magnifie and adore the divine Disposer of it, as we see frequently exemplified to us in the sublime Raptures of the holy *Psalmist*, who never better approves his right to be called *the sweet singer of* Israel, than on this ravishing Theme.

8. AND now can it be fancied a priviledge and dignity, to be the one *jarring string* in this great Instrument? To discompose this divine melody, and become the only unprofitable useless part of the Creation? Shall those whom God hath made *little lower than the Angels*, snbdue and debase their natures beneath the very lowest rank of Creatures? And shall this (not humble but) sordid exinanition be look'd upon with reverence, courted as a preferment? This certainly is such an absurdity, as wants nothing to its confutation, but merely to be considered: And therefore if *Gentlemen* would but soberly reflect, there is little doubt but they would resign at once their claim, and their value of this so defaming a piece of honour, so abasing an exaltation.

9. WE can let down our thoughts but one step lower, and that is into the bottomless pit; and from thence sure none will desire to fetch a president;

president; yet if he did, even that black Region could not afford it. For though it must be confessed, those *accursed spirits* accord not with the former instances, in respect of the end of their actions, yet they do in the activity itself: theirs is a busie state, though to an ill purpose; *Satan goes to and fro in the earth*, Job 2. 2. and he *walks about seeking whom he may devour*, 1 Pet. 5. 12. Yea he employs all his faculties too, makes diligent use of all that acuteness and dexterity, which either his nature or experience have furnished him with, towards that end he pursues. So that it were a wronging, a calumniating even of the very *Devil*, to charge him with idleness: which though it be a sin which yields him such liberal crops, that he may well seek both to plant and cherish it in humane nature, yet he cannot offer such violence to his own, as to become an Example of it.

10. WE may hence make a measure, how scandalous reproachful a thing this is, which neither *Heaven*, *Earth*, nor *Hell* it self will own, but is like an illegitimate birth, disclaim'd by all. How unreasonable, nay how infamous will it then be, for those to take up this exposed brat, to foster this vice in their bosomes, who have of all others the greatest and most particular obligation to detest it, as having received the most of those Talents which engaged them to action? And that such is the *Gentlemans condition*, a slight inspection will serve to demonstrate.

SECT. II.

Of Varieties of Callings.

1. NOW since the universal obligation, which is incumbent upon all, and renders it strict duty to have a *Calling*, rests upon this undeniable ground, *That all men have received from God some abilities to actuate*, some *Talents* to improve; it follows by all Laws of inference, that those who have received the most of these, can of all others the least reasonably pretend to an Exemption, but must on the contrary be acknowledged under the constraint of the stronger and more numerous ties, the general duty which herein lies upon all, extending and spreading it self into *several Branches*, according to the quality and proportion of mens receits.

2. HENCE it comes to pass, that mens *Callings* and employments become so various, not only by the free choices of the several men, but even by the direction and assignation of God and Nature, because one man is furnished with an ability, which qualifies him for one sort of calling, another is by his distinct propriety markt out for another. And hence also it is, that those callings, which are distinct in several persons, may

may come to be united in one man, becauſe the ſeveral abilities, which conſtitute thoſe *Callings*, concurring in him, the duties muſt by unavoidable conſequence do ſo alſo. This is in ſome degree obſervable in moſt men, who beſides the *general* powers common to mankind, do receive *ſome peculiar* in order to ſome ſpecial end, and ſo are obliged not only to thoſe Exerciſes which belong indifferently to their whole *ſpecies*, but to thoſe alſo for which they are individually qualified. Thus thoſe whom God hath called to *Chriſtianity*, are by that impowred for thoſe performances which that holy profeſſion exacts, and ſo have the calling of *Chriſtians* ſuperadded to the other, which either natural or civil obligation had laid upon them; ſo that the ſame man may have various callings, in relation to his differing capacities, unleſs as we diſtinguiſh mens ſouls into the vegetative, the animal, and the rational, which in ſtricter ſpeaking may be ſaid to be only divers operations of the ſame ſoul; ſo in truth what we term ſeveral callings, be but the ſame comprehenſive one, ſtretching it ſelf into the ſeveral faculties of the perſon.

3. I NEED not attempt to evince the impropriety of the phraſe, 'twill ſerve my end as well that they paſs for ſeveral, and the application I ſhall make of it, is to ſhew thoſe who are unwilling to hear of any *Calling* at all, that they have obligations indiſpenſable to more than one. They have whatever can belong to them as men, they have alſo what belongs to them as *Chriſtians*;

and

and they have also a peculiar addition appertaining to them as *Gentlemen*, that is by interpretation, those who are distinguished from the vulgar, not only by empty names and aiery titles, but by real donatives, distributed to them by God, as so many distinct advantages, fertile and prolifical abilities, towards the bringing him in his expected harvest of honour and glory.

4. IT is too much to be doubted, many of them may need admonition concerning the *two* former of these callings; the duties even of men, much more of Christians being so far worn out of practice, that they seem to be out of memory too; or if they be at all reflected on, 'tis with the same scorn that the antiquated habits of our forefathers are, as things fit only to dress a man up an object of laughter and derision. But this would be too vast a Theme, and besides is superseded by the many pious labours of others. My purpose therefore is not to treat at all of them, otherwise than they shall happen to be linked and interwoven, as in many particulars they are, with the *third*, that of the *Gentleman*.

5. AND here they need not fear that I mean to put the Spade or Hammer into their hands, to require them to become either Husbandmen or Mechanicks: my whole Design is founded in their distinction from these, namely, in those things, wherein either in kind or degree they excel them. That many such things there are, they will need no Monitor at another time, when the Question is only of the Reverence and Respect

ſpect due from ſuch their Inferiors: In ſuch caſes every one can make large Scrolls and Catalogues (*written*, like *Ezekiel*'s Roll, *within and without*) of his *Advantages* and *Prerogatives*, and ſtretch them to the exacting the very laſt mite of Tribute they can poſſibly pretend to. But let them remember, that God is as jealous of his Honour, as they can be of their own: and therefore as they make thoſe Pre-eminences, inſtruments of attracting Glory from thoſe below them, ſo they muſt alſo of reverberating and returning it home to that divine Power above them, who beſtowed them to that end, and will not finally be deluded; but if they will diſappoint his primary intention, that of having his *Grace* glorified in their faithful managery of thoſe Talents, they ſhall not be able to defeat his ſecondary, that of having his *Juſtice* magnified in the fatal doom of ſuch *ſlothful ſervants*; if they will envy him the more agreeable ſatisfaction of beſtowing Rewards, they cannot defraud him of that (though inferior) of executing vengeance.

SECT.

SECT. III.

The Particulars of the Gentleman's Advantages above others.

1. BUT to dwell no longer on Generals, I ſhall deſcend to particularize thoſe *Advantages*, by which they are ſevered and diſcriminated from the vulgar, and which conſequently by being peculiar to them, devolve on them an obligation of a *diſtinct Duty*. And here I ſhall be careful to prevent diſpute, and therefore take in none but what are ſo obvious, as to be univerſally acknowledged; and then having my premiſes granted, I ſhall hope they will not betray themſelves ſuch ill Logicians, as to reſiſt or diſclaim the Concluſion.

2. I BEGIN with that *Advantage* which they are earlieſt poſſeſt of, that of an ingenuous and *refined Education*; of which, I hope none that hath had it, will ſo far confute the Efficacy, as to deſpiſe and undervalue it. What the Apoſtle urges in a higher Argument, *Rom. 9.* may be appliable here. Mens minds are naturally of the ſame *Clay*; *Education* is the *Potters* hand and wheel that forms them into *Veſſels of honour* or *diſhonour*. And though experience ſhews us, it is too poſſible for Men to deface thoſe nobler Impreſſions

preſſions which they have thus received, yet that makes it not ceaſe to be in it ſelf a moſt eſtimable Bleſſing, any more than that excellency of Gods Image wherein Man was created, could be defaced by his Fall. It is certain, there is no Humane means more effectual towards the refining and ſharpening Mens intellects, giving them an edge and quickneſs; and that the more, becauſe it takes them in that age wherein their faculties are, as their joynts, pliant and tractable, and ſo capable of being by exerciſe improved into great degrees, both of ſtrength and activity. *This* Advantage the meaner ſort generally want, the expenceſulneſs of ſuch a breeding ſets it beyond their reach: The indigence of whoſe condition, doth on the contrary determine their purſuits to that only, which may bring them in a ſubſiſtence, faſtens them to the Shop or Plough, and ſo leaves their minds uncultivated and unapt for thoſe more excellent productions which the happier *Inſtitution of Gentlemen* enables them for; as we ſee it obſerved by the Wiſe-man, *Ecclus.* 38. 25. to the end of that Chapter.

3. A SECOND Advantage is that of *Wealth,* which to Gentlemen ſeems to be, as it were, rained down from the Clouds, both in reſpect of the plenty and the eaſineſs of its acquiſition. Fair Patrimonies, large Inheritances deſcend on them without one drop of their ſweat, one minutes toil or ſolicitude, as if they were the undoubted Heirs, of the *Iſraelites* Bleſſings, Succeſſors in their *Canaan,* who were to *poſſeſs houſes*

full

full of all good things which they filled not, and Wells digged which they digged not, Vineyards and Olive-trees which they planted not, as it is *Deut. 6.* 11. The Poet hath placed it in the front of his Inventory, the prime ingredient in the completeſt felicity of this life, *Kes non parta labore ſed relicta:* whereas on the other ſide the lower rank of Men fetch their mere neceſſaries out of the Earth, which being, as it were, hardned and petrified by *Adam*'s ſin, muſt be mollified and ſuppled with their ſweat, before it will become penetrable, will not yield them food, but gives them alſo a portion of ſorrow with it. They muſt firſt be torn with thoſe Thorns and Briars which cover her ſurface, before they can fetch nouriſhment out of her Bowels; they muſt buy their Bread with their ſweat, as if they had ingroſſed the penalty of their firſt Fathers ſin, whilſt *Gentlemen* ſweat only by the engagement of their *ſports*, or by the direction of the *Phyſician*, to digeſt their fulneſs of Bread. Which every one muſt confeſs a ſufficient inequality.

4. A THIRD is that of *Time*. This depends by way of conſequence on the former. For God having made ſuch liberal proviſions for them, thus prevented them with the Bleſſings of his Goodneſs, they can have no need to imploy their time to gain that, wherewith they already abound; and ſo being exempted from that one devouring expence of it, have a great ſtock to beſtow on other more excellent purpoſes: whereas the poor Man hath ſcarce any vacant minute, or

ſuch

such as he can call his own. They are all foreſtalled by thoſe preſſing neceſſities which lie unremoveable upon him. His day-hours are challenged by his labour, his nights by his reſt; and the ſatisfying of theſe Claims ſo neceſſary, that his own ſupport, perhaps that alſo of a numerous family depends upon it; and therefore he may not attempt to defeat them. So that if *Time* be to be accounted a Treaſure, as undoubtedly it is, here is a ſecond ſort of Poverty to which he is expoſed as a reſult of the former; and another manifeſt inequality between him and the *Gentleman.*

5. A FOURTH is that of *Authority*, by which I mean not that which belongs to thoſe which are advanced to Publick Office; for that being peculiar to ſome few only, will not bear a diſtinct part in my preſent conſideration: but I underſtand by it that more private influence which *Gentlemen* generally have on thoſe that are their *Dependents.* And this alſo may be reckoned an effect of the former, their wealth: For in proportion to that, the number of Servants, Tenants, and Penſioners, (yea, perhaps of Friends too) is to be meaſured. And over all theſe they have ſomewhat (though not of abſolute deſpotical dominion, yet) of ſway and prevalency. On the other ſide, the poor Mans authority is bounded within the narrow circuit of his little cottage, being in effect no other than the propagation of that Power Nature hath given him over his own body, to thoſe Branches which ſpring from it,

his

his Children; and to that Cien which is ingrafted into it, his Wife. And if he ſhall but peep out of this little Principality, attempt to inlarge his Territories, and preſcribe to any Forreigner, he will ſoon be taught how little his power is acknowledged, and conſequently how great a diſtance he ſtands in this particular alſo from the *Gentleman.*

6. THE fifth is that of *Reputation* and *Eſteem*; which as the World goes, is a ſhadow that waits only on the greater Bodies. Wealth and Honour are the things that render any perſon conſiderable amongſt Men, prepare them with an aptneſs to embrace his Dictates, to conſider his Counſels, to tranſcribe his Copies. And though now it often falls out to be an unjuſt meaſure, yet perhaps it may have no unjuſt Original. For if ſuch perſons did make uſe of thoſe advantages they have, to make their Mind as rich as their Fortunes, this were but their due. And therefore if it be paid them upon this ſuppoſition, it is they only that are guilty of the injuſtice, by defeating the ground of it. But by what tenour ſoever they hold it, 'tis ſure, it may be made an apt Inſtrument to many good purpoſes, and therefore well deſerves to be accounted into the number of their advantages. But now if you look on the poor Man, you ſhall ſee him loaded with Contempts, from which, no inward Excellencies he poſſeſſes can reſcue him. It is the obſervation of the wiſeſt of Men, that *the poor mans wiſdom is deſpiſed, Eccleſ. 9. 16.* So hated and ſcorned

ſcorned a thing is Poverty, that it ſeems the Fate of it is infectious, and caſts reproach upon the moſt eſtimable things that cohabit with it. The world is ſo full of inſtances of this truth, that we need go no higher than our own times. But if we ſhould look back, we may find one as ancient as *Job*, who in his own perſon experimented theſe diſtant effects of Proſperity and Adverſity. While he was in a flouriſhing condition *Men gave ear to him, and waited and kept ſilence at his counſel. After his words, they ſpake not again, and his ſpeech dropped on them*, *Job* 29. 21, 22. But in the next Chapter we find the Scene quite changed, and this reverenced and adored perſon is become a *ſong and a by-word to the baſeſt of men.* I ſhall readily acknowledge this injurious treating of the poor to be a great Barbariſm. But though there can nothing be inferred from it as *de jure*, yet its being ſo *de facto*, proves all I am about to aſſert, *viz.* The great unevenneſs that is (in this inſtance, as well as the former) between Gentlemen and their Inferiors.

7. HAVING given this Schedule of undeniable *Priviledges* they enjoy, I ſhall, before I proceed farther, beſeech them here to make a ſtand, and ſoberly to conſider whether it be imaginable, that God hath put ſo many excellent Inſtruments of Action into their hands, only to make them leſs active. That were to accuſe the Divine Wiſdom of ſuch an unskilful kind of managery, as the ſhalloweſt Humane Providence falls not under. Will any of them be at the care and ex-

penſe to furniſh a *Servant* with all Materials and Utenſils for work, with no other Deſign, but that he may ſpend his time either in ſleep or riot? If they will not, I ſhall ask how they would like a Servant that ſhould ſo abſurdly pervert their intentions? And according to the anſwer they give to that, leave them to conclude of their own acceptableneſs with their great Maſter; who not only in a ſingle inſtance, but in an habitual courſe behave themſelves as prepoſterouſly. I cannot ſee how ſuch a reflection, if made with any ſerioufneſs, can miſs of being attended with a ſevere ſelf-condemnation. And then that being ſo proper a *baſis* and ground-work, ſhould methinks by a kind, even of natural energy, invite them to ſuperſtruct on it more Noble and Chriſtian purpoſes; that they who are ſo apt to expect Adoration from others, ſo willing to be Idoliz'd, may not yet any longer be willing to be indeed Idols (*have mouths and ſpeak not, &c. Pſal.* 135. as many unactive powers, as thoſe have Organs) but may rather aſpire to ſome degree of reſemblance to that Divine Eſſence, whoſe operations are as Inceſſant as Excellent, and by an unintermitted Induſtry in employing thoſe advantages God hath put into their hands, anſwer his deſign in beſtowing them.

SECT.

SECT. IV.

The Branches of his Calling founded in the first Advantage, that of Education.

1. I PRESUME it is by this time rendred sufficiently evident, *that a Gentleman hath a calling*; it is now seasonable to advance, and shew *what that is.* And of this the ground hath already been laid in the last *Section* by the enumeration of those *peculiar Advantages* he possesses; which being those Talents committed to his managery, his Calling will be the most exactly anatomized and distributed into its parts, by unfolding those several Branches of his Receits, and examining what improvements each of them is capable of, which as so many distinct Limbs make up the entire Body of his Calling.

2. THIS I shall do, not only in the gross, but severally, through every one of them, and shall take the liberty of doing it with the addition of a double reflection; the one on the *contrary practice*, the other on *the pleasure* and satisfaction that will infallibly attend the discharge of *this Duty.*

3. I BEGIN with that of their *Education*; the former part whereof commonly commences as timely as the first Exercises of their Reason.

It is so creditable a thing to have Children put into an early nurture, that there are few Parents so careless of their own reputation, as to neglect it, but do either by themselves or some others, to whom they assign the charge, put them under such a *Discipline* as may break their natural rudeness and stubbornness, mould them into some form of Civility, and teach them that first Fundamental Lesson of Obedience, on which all future instructions must be built. And this is an huge Advantage, not only towards the succeeding parts of Education, but towards the regularity of the whole life. For by having their Infant-passions thus checked and bridled, they become more tame and governable ever after. The next part of Education, is *Erudition* and Instruction, and under a Succession of this they are for many years. Scarce any that owns the name of *Gentleman*, but will commit his Son to the care of some Tutor, either at home or abroad, who at first instills those Rudiments, proper to their tenderer years, and as Age matures their parts, so advances his Lectures, till he have let them in to those spacious Fields of Learning, which will afford them both Exercise and Delight. This is that *Tree of Knowledge*, upon which there lies no interdict: which instructs not, as that in *Eden* did by sad and costly experience, but by fair and safe intuitions, and may well be looked on as a principal plant in that *Paradise* wherein God hath placed this rank of Men.

4. THESE two parts of Education united, qualifie

qualifie a man for many excellent purpoſes. It will be impoſſible to enumerate all, becauſe a mind thus ſubdued and cultivated, muſt yet owe the opportunities of many actions to outward circumſtances and occaſions, which being various and accidental, can with no certainty be brought into the account. But abſtracting from theſe, there are divers more intrinſick benefits, which nothing but a Mans ſelf can fruſtrate; and thoſe alone I ſhall inſiſt on.

5. FIRST, a Man thus Educated is better prepared to reſiſt all Errors that may invade his *Underſtanding*: his diſcerning Faculty is more nimble and agile, can ſuddenly ſurround a Propoſition, and diſcover the infirm and feeble parts; and ſo is not to be impoſed upon by ſuch ſlight Sophiſms, as captivate whole herds of the vulgar. This Advantage, it is apparent he hath, and it is his *duty* to make uſe of it, to examine cautiouſly the grounds of an Opinion, before he give up his aſſent to it, and not to betray his Reaſon, either to his Sloth, by neglecting to give it a competent diſcuſſion; or to his Intereſt, by electing Tenents rather by their profitableneſs than their truth. This certainly is the leaſt that is ſuppoſable to be required of them in this particular, and ſure it is ſo moderate an injunction, as the moſt mutinous humour can have no temptation to quarrel at. For who would think him a ſevere impoſer, who having furniſhed a man with a light to direct him through ſome dark paſſage, ſhould only require him not to blow it out?

6. AND as he hath this Advantage in respect of his *Understanding*, so hath he, in the second place, in relation to his *Will:* which though it be a free faculty, and consequently cannot be forcibly determined to any thing, yet it is capable of perswasions and inducements, and is usually bended and inclined by them. It must therefore be a fair step towards the rectifying of the Will, when the intellect is stored with Arguments and Incentives to goodness. And this Learning must be supposed to provide for, unless we will exclude out of the Scheme, both Morality and Divinity; for each of those will yield variety of such Arguments. *Morality* will present Vertue as perfectly amiable in itself, and so fit to be embraced for its own sake: and not only so, but also as highly profitable and advantageous to us, as being that which gives the sublimest perfection to our Natures, the sweetest rest and tranquillity to our Minds; and in a word, a full satisfaction to all our Rational Appetites. *Divinity* confirms all this, and superadds what infinitely transcends it, the assurance of those eternal and glorious rewards in another world. And these surely are such tempting *allectives*, as are very proper to attract the Will to chuse what appears thus excellent, thus desirable, provided they be justly represented to it. And the doing that, the pressing these motives home upon the *Will*, and that in refutation of all the contrary deceivable pretensions of vice, is the first part of their obligation. But then there is also a second, and that

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is, that they permit themſelves to be perſwaded by ſuch efficacious arguments, and actually conform their wills to theſe dictates of their underſtanding, that is, that they really and effectively be ſuch men, as their education directs and requires them to be: Which being the work of their *Wills*, 'twill be abſurd to plead impoſſibility or infirmity, ſince 'tis manifeſt they may if they will; which is ſuch a degree of liberty, as ſerves in all other inſtances to denominate a man a free agent, and ſuch as all puniſhments and rewards both divine and humane are founded on.

7. A THIRD advantage is in relation to his *affections*; which being the inferior and more bruitiſh part of the man, are yet ſo impetuous and aſſuming, that they are very apt to uſurp the dominion over the nobler faculties; and where they gain it, the event is anſwerable to what we ſee in States, where the common people have wreſted the Scepter, all is put into confuſion. Now that which may prevent theſe civil broils in the ſoul, and ſecure the government to the proper Sovereign, may well be reputed an advantage. And to this, nothing merely humane is more conducing than *Education*. For firſt, that early diſcipline which we preſumed, one part of it puts a bridle in the mouths of theſe head-ſtrong paſſions, which by many repeated acts of reſtraint at laſt forget their native ferity, and become more calm and tractable. But then Erudition compleats this conqueſt, backs this unruly beaſt, and by a dextrous managery not only reſtrains, but

guides him, and makes him serve to many useful purposes, renders these mutinous Rebels not only captivated slaves, but good Subjects, obedient to the laws of Reason. All this Education is of it self aptly disposed to do, if men will not take the Beasts part against it, encourage him to plunge till he have thrown the Rider. And all that is in this particular required of them, is but to hold fast those reins that are thus put into their hands, to keep their Affections in such a just subjection, that they may receive, not give laws. Thus we see the influence which Education hath on all the essential parts of a mans mind. And were it here so immured and closed up, that it could make no sallies at all thence; did the soul, like *Gideon*'s *fleece*, ingross *all this precious dew*; yet whilest that received such liberal infusions, it would irrefragably evince this to be no mean inconsiderable advantage. But it is indeed impossible it should be so confin'd; for if it be permitted to make these impressions within, as heat in the centre fails not to diffuse it self to the circumference; so certainly will it extend and manifest it self in the more visible effects; all the products and emanations of a mind thus regulated will own their original: bear the Image of their Parent.

8. AND first his *Behaviour* will be affable and civil, not insolent and imperious; as one that knows Humanity and gentleness is a common debt to mankind, and therefore will not think fit to contract or dam up his civility into so narrow

narrow a compaſs, that it ſhall ſwell into complement, and mean flattery towards thoſe above, and not ſuffer one drop to deſcend on thoſe beneath him: but diſperſe its ſtreams ſo, that all channels may be filled with it. 'Tis true, the depth of ſome will require a greater proportion to that filling than others; and there 'tis not to be doubted but he may be more liberal; only in the mean time the ſhallower are not to remain dry. Let the inequality be ſuch as proceeds only from the capacities of the Subjects, not from the partiality of the Agent, and he prevaricates no part of his duty in this matter.

9. SECONDLY, his *Words* will be temperate and decent, the product of judgment, not of rage. For he that hath calmed his paſſions hath nothing to betray him to raſh, angry, or rude language: this is a foam which is caſt up only by the billows of a turbulent tempeſtuous mind; and can never be the iſſues of a ſerene compoſed temper. To this it is but proportionable, that they be alſo weighty and material. *A wiſe mans words*, ſaith the Son of *Sirach*, *are weighed in the ballance*, and therefore he that hath improved his Education to that pitch of proficiency, will ſurely look his diſcourſe be ſuch, as may anſwer that character, which muſt at the leaſt ſuppoſe it to have ſomething of ſolidity, no man ever attempting to put froth and bubbles into the Scales. And not only ſo; but it muſt alſo preſume it to have ſomething of uſe and value: for, whoever takes pains to weigh what for its uſeleſneſs

uſeleſneſs and meanneſs he intends to caſt out as refuſe; And both theſe qualifications are very eſſential parts of a *Gentleman*'s dialect, the one oppoſed to light and fooliſh, the other to unſeaſonable diſcourſe. For as the one hath nothing of weight (unleſs it be that of a burden to the hearers) ſo the other can have nothing of uſe, nor conſequently of worth, that being to be meaſured by the aptneſs of it to the perſons to whom it is addreſſed. It ſhould be the endeavour of thoſe whom God hath endued with knowledge, to convey as much of benefit and inſtruction to others as they can: in order whereunto 'tis neceſſary they adapt their ſpeech to the capacities of thoſe they treat with, otherwiſe let them diſcourſe never ſo elaborately, they will rather confound than edifie, and appear to affect more to boaſt, than communicate their knowledge.

10. LASTLY, his *Employments* will be worthy and ingenuous. A man that hath this *inward* Nobility of Mind ſuperadded to that of his Birth, will abhor to buſie himſelf viciouſly or impertinently; he hath thoſe qualifications, which render him uſeful, and he muſt give himſelf thoſe Exerciſes, whereby he may become the moſt eminently ſo. If by juſt authority he be aſſigned to any publick charge, he is to embrace it cheerfully; not as a prize either to Ambition or Covetouſneſs, but as an opportunity of Vertue; a ſphere wherein he may move the moſt vigorouſly in the ſervice of God and his Countrey. But this happening but to few, it is neceſſary he have

ſome

ſome other reſerve of action. And ſuch ſurely, he that induſtriouſly deſigns it, cannot want: wherein though perhaps his influence will not be ſo general as in that, yet it may fall very auſpiciouſly on many. And when all thoſe occaſions are exhauſted too, when all direct operations are at a ſtand, he may yet betake him to the reflex'd, employ his activity upon himſelf, which will always remain a proper object of his Induſtry, he being though a rich, yet ſtill ſuch an improveable ſoil, as will incourage and reward his Huſbandry, though never ſo often repeated. And now I ſhall preſume it apparent, That *Education* is a moſt eſtimable Treaſure, a precious *Mine* that contains ſo many rich veins. O, why ſhould any that poſſeſs it, ſuffer themſelves to be poor, meerly for want of diligence in digging out the *Ore*!

11. AND would to God that were an impertinent complaint, ſuch as none were concerned in. But they that look on the Manners of many that have had this happy inſtitution, will find too great cauſe to wonder and bewail, that ſo hopeful a Seeds-time ſhould produce ſo ſlender, nay ſo degenerate a Crop: As if *Job*'s curſe were here exemplified, *Job* 31. 40. *Thiſtles to grow inſtead of Wheat, and Cockle inſtead of Barley.* *Plutarch* tells us of a *voice frozen in the midſt of a River*, that became *audible by the thaw*, and applies it to Moral Precepts taught in youth, but actuated by age. The Simile ſpeaks him to have lived in better times: for in theſe, the voice

diſſolves

diſſolves with the Ice, leaves not ſo much as an Eccho behind it. Men now make it the buſineſs of their riper years, to unravel not the follies, but the learning of their youth: no ſooner are they got from under the Diſcipline of others, but the firſt act of it they exerciſe, is upon thoſe notions which have been inſtilled into them. And here they are ſuch ſevere *Lictors*, that the mildeſt infliction is to gag and bind them, deprive them both of voice and motion. Nor are they ordinarily ſatisfied with this, but as if they feared they would, like impatient Captives, watch ſome advantage to break looſe again, their final doom is *Oſtraciſm*, they and their Linage; all ſober Counſels derived from them are utterly expulſt, ſo totally raſed out of their minds, that not the leaſt footſteps of them remain. And all this under the name of *Pedantry*, a title, which it is probable their great averſneſs to their Teachers ſuggeſts to them, as the moſt pathetick reproach; as if they meant now to be revenged on Learning and Tutor together, for attempting to make them wiſe againſt their wills.

12. AND now when the root is thus ſtockt up, there is little expectation of Fruit. And therefore he that ſhall here look for thoſe forementioned effects of Education, will be more diſappointed, than *Chriſt* ſeemed *to be by the Fig-tree*; that, though *fruitleſs*, yet afforded *leaves*. But here we are not to hope for ſo much, no ſign that ever there was ſuch a plant in the ſoil. Let us briefly review thoſe ſeverals, and ſee what of them is ordinarily to be met with.

13. AND

13. AND first for the resisting of Errors, we usually find *Gentlemen* no *Heroes* in this point: their *Understandings* are as pliant, as seducible, as those who never had their means of fortifying them. And if they do indeed reject Errors, it is commonly by the same Engine, wherewith they cast off Truth, *viz.* their inconsideration of both, as not being able to endure so much seriousness and intention of mind, as may serve to *enter* them of any opinion. They have transplanted their discerning faculty from their intellect to their *Senses*, and find it there so full, so incessant imployment, that it can never be at leisure to revert to Scholastick disquisitions. They can discern exactly the most minute error in their garment, hold their Artificer most rigidly to the Laws of the *Mode*, are most exquisite Judges in all that relates to vanity or pleasure; and can they ever think fit to trouble their heads (whose least *Lock* must not for a world be disturbed) with abstruser speculations, who have found out so much a more easie exercise of their faculties? If any shall think this character partakes of the Satyr, I shall beseech him to compare it with the true state of our young *Gallants* in this point, and then upon the same account that cold and scanty praises go for detraction, I shall expect this very imperfect and partial accusation may pass for a Panegyrick.

14. NEXT for the regulation of their *Wills*, that advantage depends so much on the former, that of their Understandings, that what evacuates

that,

that, must necessarily be supposed to do the same for this also. It is not imaginable that he who hath defaced all his principles, whether moral or divine, or at least never revolves or considers them, should receive any influence from them, since they operate not but by a distinct application. And here should I ask many *Gentlemen*, when they ever so much as attempted any thing of this sort, I fear they would be forced to quarrel at the incivility of the question, to evade the necessity of answering it. But God knows their actions speak too loud, that their business is to obey not to prescribe; to fulfil, not regulate their *Wills*. Nay indeed 'tis too frequent, that instead of conforming their wills to their principles, they model and transform their principles to their wills, herein verifying *Aristotle*'s observation, *that Pleasures are corruptive of Principles.* And so by this one art of inversion, the face of things is quite changed; Vertue, which their books represented to them as lovely and honourable, is now thought to have gained that lustre only by the flattery and varnish of the painters, and so is decried as the most unamiable, despicable creature: and on the other side, all the contrary vices are taken from under that black veil Philosophers or Divines have put upon them, and are furbish'd and trimm'd up, set to open view, as the most splendid, glorious things, the most adorning accomplishments of a *Gentleman*.

15. AND to secure this transmutation, even God himself must have his part in it, be concluded

cluded to have been all this while misrepresented in those characters of *Purity* and *Justice* his word has made of him, and to have laid no such severe restraints upon men, as that tells us of. That *Temperance*, *Chastity*, *self-denial*, *Mortification*, &c. were but the creations of some melancholy *Recluses*, who would then enviously impose those bands upon others wherewith they had foolishly fetter'd themselves; that God is more indulgent to Mens appetites, which they may satiate here, as they please, without those future dangers Preachers fright them with: That this is the new *Gentile Divinity*, we need not appeal to Mens lives, their words openly proclaiming it, not without much scorn and contempt of their easy simplicity, who govern themselves by the other. Yet as if this would not sufficiently provide for impiety, as if they were conscious of that absurdity, which indeed there is in defining God an abettor and favourer of vice, many have advanced a step higher, taking a more compendious course, and since they cannot bring God over to their party, make him such as will serve their turn, will unmake him, by becoming flat Atheists. Of this there are too too many instances, and 'tis to be feared will be many more, whilest to all other sensual allurements that opinion makes to its Proselytes, this is added, that it is become a *creditable* thing, the badge and signature of a modern *Wit*, thus to be one of *David*'s fools, in saying *there is no God.*

16. IN

16. IN the next place, let us descend to the *Affections*, and see what effects of their education is discernible there. And truly that seems to be no other, than what is observable of a dam, put to intercept the course of some rapid stream, which so soon as it is either removed or born down, the torrent gushes with so much the greater violence, for having had that opposition: so here, when the restraints, which bridled their minority, are taken off, their passions swell to a higher degree of impetuosity, they cease to be boyes and men together, the man is dismounted, looses the reins, and is dragg'd whither the fury of the beast directs. A sad change! yet daily too visible in many: for alas! what is more ordinary than to see *Gentlemen*, under the dominion of these brutish appetites? Sometimes transported by a *Rage* to the greatest Undecencies, nay Dangers; sometimes hurried by a *Lust* like the *possest person*, *Mark* 9. 22. through *fire and water*, the most desperate destructive attempts, and have nothing but rottenness and disease as the final prize of all those difficult adventures; sometimes drowned in swinish *Intemperance*; and sometimes again intombed in the *Earth*, buried as it were alive by sordid covetousness, as if they meant to transcribe, though not the innocence, yet the *sufferings* of the *Primitive* Christians, in being torn in pieces by *wild Beasts*. Oh, that they might once be brought to relinquish this absurd fortitude, that those who laugh at the precept *of turning the other cheek*, *Mat.* 5. 39. would not here

here infinitely over-act it; and give up themselves to be buffeted, yea slaughter'd by these their cruellest enemies, nor be such *Platonick* lovers of Martyrdom, as to chuse only this, whereto there is no Crown annexed, but what is worn in the Kingdom of darkness.

17. AND now since we are thus to seek of these *inward* effects, we can with no reason hope for any of those *outward*, which are the results and consequences of these. And then 'twill be no wonder to observe *Gentlemen* behave themselves disdainfully and imperiously, as if they could not set a just value on themselves, without the unjust contempt of others. 'Tis true indeed, this is commonly a wind that blows but one way, down the hill; only upon those below them, upwards they breath gentler gales; it being one of their most studied faculties, to perform all acts of the most supererrogating Civility to those above them. But when that Civility is throughly scanned, it will prove a greater injury than the contrary Rudeness; 'tis made up of such hollow professions, such gross flatteries, as are much worse than reproaches, nay seldom fail to be actually seconded with them; there being nothing more usual, than to revile and deride those at a distance, whom, when present, they admire and adore. And these now become such essential indispensable parts of good breeding, that the want of either inevitably betrays a man to the title of a silly Rustick; Flatteries and Despisings being the two contrary elements, whereof he,

whom they call a *Fine Gentleman*, is to be compounded.

18. THIS gives an account also of some part of his *Dialect*, which thus far answers little to those requisite qualifications, Weight and Usefulness; there being nothing more trivial or useless, than these two parts of conversation, and 'twere well if no worse epithets belonged to them. But if we look also into the rest, they will ordinarily appear to carry proportion with these: 'Tis every mans observation, that *no spring will rise higher than its first head*; and then words being but the issues of the Mind, where that wants the ballast of sober and vertuous Notions, 'tis no wonder if the discourse be light and aiery. 'Twere easie to exemplifie in the several sorts of it adapted to the several humours of men; but 'tis also so needless, that the copy would be too exact by transcribing the impertinence too. But what such frothy discourse is naturally, the most serious may become by accident: And thus we see it the infirmity of some, who so far retain their Education, as to have their minds better repleniſhed to vent their plenty so unseasonably or affectedly, that it produces nothing of benefit to the hearers, but rebounds injuriously with the aspersion of vanity upon themselves.

19. BUT such is the misery of this Age, that it were a fair composition, if *Gentlemen* could be perswaded to reduce their *Discourse* only to a privative sort of Illness; 'twere somewhat tolerable, if as on the one side they did not *minister*

grace

grace, Eph. 4. 29. so on the other they did not breath infection on the hearers. But alas! what are all those prophane scoffings at Piety, so frequent among them, but as so many blasts and malevolent vapours to nip and destroy the practice of it? And so we see it too commonly does among those whose greener resolutions set them not above their malignant influence. How does their immodest aud obscene talk disperse and scatter their own impure fires, to the inflaming of others? And whilest they inscribe upon these Poysons the inviting names of Ingenuity and *Esprit*; they do not only tempt men greedily to imbibe them, but even defame and prostitute that Wit they pretend to, render it a *Wilderness* for all savage rudeness to range in, and make as many *Candidates* for that reputation, as there are impious and bestial men in the world. And to this sort of *Wit* they have found out a very proportionable Rhetorick, I mean that of their *Oaths*, that hellish piece of Oratory, which so overspreads their language, that (like a profuse Embroidery that even quite hides the Stuffe) it becomes the most remarkable part of it. 'Tis not a little strange how this foulest deformity hath gotten to pass for an embellishment and ornament of Stile; but that it doth so, is very visible not only from the no pretence of other temptation to it, but also from that affected and studied variety observable among them, as if they had the same concernment for their Discourse, which they have for themselves,

ſelves, *viz.* that it may every Year appear in ſome new piece of Dreſs, have ſome Oaths freſh minted to ſet it off.

20. TO all theſe we may add their vain *Boaſtings* and Aſſumings, which are often ſo deplorably ridiculous, that 'tis doubtful whether more pity or contempt belongs to them. Thus oftentimes, he that has but croſs'd the Seas to fetch a Feather and *fantaſtick Mean*, brags more of his Travels, than if he had paſs'd the *Line*, and felt the ſcorchings of the Torrid Zone. And upon the ſtrength of this he takes authority to impoſe on others the moſt abſurd and incredible Relations; yet ſtill impoſing more perniciouſly on himſelf, *i. e.* a belief that he appears very illuſtrious and glorious in all this, and on that confidence the ſmiles which his auditors mean in ſcorn, ſhall be taken in applauſe of him, and ſo encourage thoſe follies they deride.

21. INDEED where this vain humour dwells, it will betray it ſelf in innumerable indecencies of ſpeech; but never does it give itſelf a fuller or worſe character, than when it lets looſe to anger and rage, one of the moſt genuine and fruitful branches of this bitter root. And this we frequently ſee overflow in all the invenomed reproachful language imaginable, ſuch as one would wonder ſhould fall from the mouth of any, whoſe education had not been wholly barbarous; an inverted kind of Eloquence, whereto ſome, who have been taught the rules of better Rhetorick, have a great fluency.

22. IF

22. IF now we ſhould proceed to take a view of their *Imployments*, there is little doubt but that *Tekel*, *Dan.* 5. 27. might be a proper inſcription on them, yea a mild one too, Lightneſs and Vanity being many times the moſt innocent ingredient in them. And this is but a natural inference from the former: for ſince the principle of Actions as well as Words is within, it will certainly operate alike in both; as Water ſent from one fountain through ſeveral pipes, is the ſame, and hath equal vertues or faults in each. It were too eaſie to give as particular an account of theſe as the former; but foreſeeing an occaſion to do that in another place, I ſhall transfer it thither, as not deſiring to iterate the importunity on ſo ungrateful a ſubject.

23. AND now he that ſhall conſider, that all this is but the impartial Image and repreſentation of thoſe, who have had that Education we ſo much magnified, will ſure be tempted to ask *Judas*'s queſtion, *Ad quid perditio hæc? Why was all this waſte* of Diſcipline and Literature? To what purpoſe was ſo coſtly a foundation laid, when the ſuperſtructure is in the Apoſtles phraſe, 1 *Cor.* 3. 12. nothing *but hay and ſtubble*? And I doubt many defeated Parents have cauſe to make this complaint: but I fear alſo divers of them may with juſtice accuſe themſelves as Acceſſories to their own diſappointments, who by an overhaſty deſire of ſeeing their Sons men, do at once anticipate and fruſtrate their hopes, evacuate the benefit of many years Education, by taking them

too soon from under its benign influence. Which though it usually spring from immoderate indulgence, is yet really the greatest severity; for what can be more so, than to tie them to all the labour and toil of the Seeds-time, force their Childhood to that study and intension of which that giddy age is most impatient, and then snatch them away at the *Harvest*; suffer them to converse no more with Learning, when once they grow capable of receiving either delight or profit by it? Thus of late it hath been the method of Breeding to post them with an inconvenient speed from one stage to another, many times bringing them too soon to the University, but much oftner taking them too early from it, before they have near gained what they came thither to furnish themselves with. And from thence the next step is over the *Sea*, which soon washes away those Notions, which lie crude in their brains, but have wanted maturity of years to digest into their manners. Indeed 'tis not imaginable how they should retain them, they being at their coming abroad solemnly put in a direct course of forgetting speedily what they formerly learnt, their whole time being then by order to be taken up in other unspeculative exercises, wherein if they do happen to attain to some eminency, yet 'tis sure but a dry exchange for what they quit for it. But then 'tis not one in twenty that arrives to that; the negligence of Governours, or their own headiness, when they find the rein thus slackned, often makes their progress little

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in any thing they are appointed to; but instead of that, they run a full career in all debaucht pleasures, advance there in an instant to the highest proficiency. I say not this to decry *Travelling* in general, but only the unseasonable time that is chosen for it. He that would really improve his Son by that means, should send him at such a mature age, when by the help of his foregoing education his Judgment is setled and qualified to make useful observations, his manners well weighed and fixed, that so he may be capable of all the good, Foreign climes can afford, and secured from the infection of the ill; like a Loadstone, attract things of weight only, and not like Jet, draw nothing but chaff and straws. But I confess this a digression, and therefore return to those who have thus embezled this precious Advantage, (and who have too much of their own wills in it, to be able to transfer the guilt upon any error of their Parents) beseeching them seriously to lay to heart this their so ruinous ill husbandry, and to let at last some better fruits of that seed appear; not to suffer a Piece of *Plate* left to the School or Colledge, to be the only Testimonials that ever they were there, and so bring those Societies under the reproach of extortion, or fraud, of professing learning but imparting none, of having taken something from them without giving them any valuable consideration, making them any proportionable returns. But that they would at last take up this Talent thus long buried in the napkin, and yet fall a trading

ding with it. And though the time they have loſt ſhould render them deſperate of the reward of the *Ten Cities*, 'tis yet motive enough to induſtry, to reſcue themſelves from the ſentence of the *Slothful ſervant*. And yet that will not be all, for there being no middle ſtate between reward and puniſhment, he that delivers himſelf from the one, puts himſelf likewiſe into a certain capacity of the other. But beſides all he is to expect hereafter, he is ſure at the time of a very fair Antepaſt of pleaſure here, which he will immediately reap from it, as the firſt-fruits of the future rich harveſt, which though the Law commanded to be ſacrificed, yet ſuch is the indulgence of the Goſpel, that it exacts nothing, but that men would themſelves enjoy them.

24. FOR ſuch is the admirable goodneſs of God, that he is generally pleaſed to adapt his commands, not only to our Eternal, but Temporal concernments; for knowing the impatience of our nature, that we love not to depend wholly upon reverſions, he hath been pleaſed to put ſomewhat of preſent guſt and reliſh upon every part of duty. This might be evidenced diſtinctly through the whole Codex of Chriſtian Precepts, his *Yoke is an eaſie*, nay *gracious Yoke*; his *burden a light burden*, *Math.* 11. 28. And from this general ground, I may have warrant ſufficient to affirm the like of this particular I am now upon. But it may be yet more clearly evinced, by reflecting on the ſeveral improvements of this Talent, which have been mention'd, as the *Duty* of all thoſe that poſſeſs it.

25. AND

25. AND first, for that of an acute and *elevated Understanding*, I need appeal no further than to common Vote, to have that pronounced a very desirable thing, it being hard to pick out a man of such an avowed brutality, that will own the despising it. Even those who will be at no pains to acquire, will yet profess to esteem it. And we may believe them in earnest, if from no other argument, yet from this, that every man affects the reputation of being Wise, is pleased when he succeeds in that aim, and on the contrary is not more troubled and discomfited at any thing, than to be taxed of Ignorance or Error. If any shall deny this, I shall suspend his confutation, till some body reproach him with folly, and then from the displeasure he finds in himself, leave him to conclude his own value of Wisdom. And indeed why do good men look upon a *fool* with so much pity, and ill men with so much scorn, if knowledge be not both a Felicity and a Credit? Nor is this the sentence only of the vulgar, who usually admire those things most, from which they stand at the greatest distance, but especially of the more discerning sort of men, who from every taste they have had of it, have had their appetites so raised, that they have insatiably thirsted after the fuller draughts. This made so many of the old *Philosophers* renounce the enjoyment of those sensual pleasures, that offered themselves, to go in quest after this one transcendent delight; and *Solomon* to prefer this in his election before Riches and Honour, the two

principal

principal parts of worldly splendor, to the rectitude of which choice God himself bears Testimony. And now if this be in it self so valuable, so ravishing a thing, shall its being here connected with duty, prove such an allay, as to deprive it of all the gust? Certainly if it do, it must argue the palate very perverse and distemper'd: for to all other, that one consideration would give a relish and flavour to the driest, the most unpleasant undertaking. The conscience that I am now employed as I ought, is such a refreshment as is able to sweeten the severest labour, yea the greatest suffering. Shame is a thing to which humane nature hath an innate abhorrence, yet the Apostles made it *matter of joy, when it befel them for Christs sake, Acts* 5. 41. And shall this blessed Copy of theirs be transformed in stead of transcribed? Shall those who have not so much *Christian patience*, as to bear the slightest reproach for him, have yet so *much unchristian stupidity*, as to endure the greatest in opposition to him? Chuse rather to be ignorant, when 'tis both their sin and shame, than wise, when 'tis their duty and reward? Invert S. *Pauls* choice, and be fools against Christ, as he owns to be *for him?* If there be any such *Antipodes* in our clime, their unhappiness will yet serve to Illustrate what they refuse to partake of, *viz.* the felicity of having performed this part of duty in the improvement of the understanding.

26. IN the next place the *regularity* of the *Will* is extremely both amiable and profitable.

For

For that being an uncontroulable faculty, if it be wrong ſet, what torrents of miſchief and confuſion does it let in? If in all its conceptions it permit the ſenſual appetite to lay, like *Jacob*, its *pilled rods before it*, all its births will be *ring-ſtraked, ſpeckled and ſpotted.* The ruinouſneſs of a perverſe will is ſo generally underſtood, that there is nothing renders a man even in common account more miſerable and deplored. He whoſe Will runs counter to his Reaſon, every man is *Aſtrologer* enough to read his *deſtiny*, and preſage his deſtruction. And by the undecent and pernicious effects of a diſordered, we may make an eſtimate of the beauty and advantage of a rectified Will. The former, like a vicious improvident Governour, expoſes his Territories to a deluge, firſt of luxury, and then of ruine: but this latter like a vertuous and prudent Prince, at once ſecures the innocence, and felicity of his ſubjects. Indeed it is this alone that really and effectively gives us the preeminence above beaſts. They have *choices* as well as we, and they have affections, but wanting the higher principle of *reaſon*, their choices are neceſſarily determined by their affections. Now if we who have both, are guided only by the latter, wherein does our ſtate differ from theirs, ſave only that our liberty makes us guilty, whereas their neceſſity leaves them innocent? I preſume I need ſay no more, to evince the happineſs of a well ordered Will, ſince none can conteſt it, but he muſt tacitely confeſs himſelf weary of his humane nature, and emulous,

not

not of a greater dignity, but of a degradation to that of the Brutes.

27. AND as much may be said concerning the *Affections*; which if they be not curbed and held in by the understanding, will have as free and uncontrouled a sway in men, as they have in meer animals, but with worse effects, by how much we have more objects to incite them, more instruments to actuate them than these have. If any man can be tempted to think this no unpleasant condition, let him yet further consider, that this metamorphosis is not like the fancied transmigration of the soul, wherein it was supposed to assume the nature and consequently the passions but of one beast alone: no, here is the whole Wilderness let loose upon a man, with all their contrary appetites perpetually combating one with another. He that hath the rapaciousness of a *Wolf*, may yet have the timorousness of an *Hare*, and so is racked between the desire of having, and the fear of suffering. He that hath the lust of a *Goat*, may yet have the intemperance of a *Swine*, and be distracted to which of the appetites to give himself. He that hath the cruelty of a *Tigre*, may yet have the wiliness of the *Fox*, which will give him the pain of many irksome delays, in attending an advantageous opportunity. And so proportionably in others. And what can be more unsupportably uneasie, than to have these continual tumults within, to be in a state of hostility, not only with other men, but with himself? Or what can there need,

beyond

beyond this consideration, to recommend the contrary condition to us? The subduing these brutish Inclinations is the introducing Peace into a Land, haras'd and wasted with intestine War: and sure none need be told (at least in this Age) that that is a most ravishing pleasure. And I may with the same confidence appeal to the verdict of any who have tried these two contrary states, and doubt not but he will from his experience confirm the most profuse and even Poetick declamation that can be made on this Theme.

28. ALL I shall add is, in a joynt relation to this and the two former, by observing that illuminated understandings, regulated Wills and Affections, make up a great part of the *celestial happiness*. The *Angels* of *light* would no longer have right to that title, without these. *The spirits of just men made perfect*, were improperly so styled, *Heb.* 12.23. had they not received this accomplishment of their nature. And the greater degrees hereof we arrive to here, so much the more sensible anticipation have we of those divine joys. And sure thus to partake with Angels and Saints, is to be happy, and will be acknowledged so by all, whose value and wishes of a *Mahometan Paradise* render them not uncompetent to estimate these purer and refined pleasures.

29. IF from hence we proceed to those *outward effects*, which are the results of these inward, we shall find they are all full of delight and satisfaction. Courtesie and friendliness of *Behaviour*

haviour does not only caſt a glorious luſtre round about, attract the eyes and hearts of others, but it alſo reflects with chearful and comfortable gleams upon our ſelves. For, Man being deſigned by God for a ſociable creature, hath ſuch propenſions and inclinations put into him, as are proper to that end: and theſe are gratified and pleaſed, when we ſo demean our ſelves, as may anſwer that intention, towards which nothing can be more neceſſary than this debonnaire and gentle carriage. For that allures people to our converſation, whereas the contrary roughneſs frights and deters them, (the churliſhneſs of a *Nabal* makes men they *cannot ſpeak to him*, 1 *Sam.* 25. 17.) it gives a man part of *Nebuchadnezzar*'s fate, ſeparates him from among men, by forcing them to withdraw from him; and that the worſt part of it too; the *hairs like Eagles feathers, and the Nails like Birds claws*, being much the lighter degree of the infliction, fit to paſs for dreſs and ornament, compared with that more deforming diſguiſe this rugged temper puts upon a man. And as on the one ſide, this moroſity and ſourneſs of humour is very uneaſie, ſo on the other is that form of fawning and flattering compliance, which ſome call Civility: It obliges men in many circumſtances to renounce their eaſe, their health, yea their underſtandings too, and keeps them in ſuch conſtraint, that one may truly ſay, a leſs meaſure of ſelf-denial would ſerve to conſtitute a man a good Chriſtian, than an exact Courtier; whereas he that keeps himſelf in a juſt

mean,

mean, neither drives away one ſort of company, nor buys the other ſo dear; He has a Standard-meaſure, by which to diſpenſe his Civilities, *viz.* the quality and worth of the perſons; and confounds not himſelf with thoſe more unjuſt and mutable rules of their expectations. So in the firſt of the inſtances he keeps himſelf a Man, whilſt the other is in ſome reſpect a Beaſt; in the ſecond he preſerves himſelf a Freeman, whileſt the other is a Slave: And ſure I may refer it to any mans deciſion, which is the pleaſanter ſtate.

30. NEXT for the Words, 'tis not to be doubted but that calm and temperate Language has the advantage of that which is paſſionate and rageful; and that not only in reſpect of decency, but eaſe too; of which there needs no other teſtimony, than that viſible perturbation and uneaſineſs obſervable in all who are under ſuch a tranſportation. So in like manner, when the words are pertinent and weighty, they give not only more ſatisfaction to the hearer, but to the ſpeaker alſo: This may be judged by the contrary diſplacency men have at themſelves, when they are conſcious to have ſpoken impertinently or undecently. By ſatisfaction, I mean not that vanity, which men too often affect of ſhewing their parts, but a juſt and ſober complacency, ariſing from the conſcience of having regulated their diſcourſe by the meaſures of a Wiſe man and a Chriſtian, the having ſaid that which may be of benefit, but cannot be of miſchief to his

Auditors,

Auditors. And this surely is a much more real pleasure than any can be had in the contrary kind of dialect. If to this it be objected, that generally none are so much delighted with their own discourses, as they who talk the most vainly and absurdly: I answer, that even these are not pleased with the vanity and absurdity; their pleasure results from a mistake, supposing it to be the quite contrary. And this helps to evince, that solid and prudent speaking gives satisfaction, since even the shadow and fiction of it can be made to yield to it.

31. LASTLY, for the Imployments, they surely must afford most of contentment, when they are most noble and excellent: they do so at the time, in the direct line, they having more of agreeableness to the nature and dignity of a man; but they do yet more so in the reflection, when a man looks back upon his day or week spent, and finds his business has been worthy of him, it exhilarates and revives him, enables him to pass his own approbation on himself, and as it were to anticipate the *Euge* he shall one day receive from his great Master. But he that gives himself only the idle advertisements of a Child, or sets to the baser drudgeries of Vice, cannot reflect without confusion: which is so well understood by such persons, that they are fain to take sanctuary in a total Inconsideration, never daring to ask themselves, What have I done? Which bears full testimony to the excellency and felicity of ingenuous Imployments, since they that decline

cline thoſe, are forced alſo to decline themſelves, grow out of their own acquaintance and knowledge.

32. AND now what objection can there lie againſt this duty, which is in all the parts of it ſo advantageous and eligible, that it becomes duty not only to God, but even to themſelves, their own preſent intereſts and ſatisfaction? Shall pleaſure it ſelf loſe its nature, adopt the properties of its direct contrary, and become irkſome and abhorred, only becauſe 'tis twiſted with Obedience? Is there ſo perfect an Antipathy between God and them, that 'tis impoſſible they ſhould have the ſame objects of delight? Or can no Joys have any taſt with them, that are not the cauſes and fore-runners of eternal ſorrows? This were ſuch a degree of perverſeneſs, as common Charity bids me not to expect; and I ſee not what elſe can evacuate the pleaſure that attends the improvement of this Talent of Education.

33. AFTER all this, I foreſee it not impoſſible that ſome may plead an Exemption from this Obligation, by affirming they want the ground of it, that they never had this Education. I am not willing to fanſie there have been ſo many unjuſt and unkind Parents as may qualifie any conſiderable number of *Gentlemen* for this Plea: But to thoſe few that can really make it, I ſhall not think the foregoing Diſcourſe wholly impertinent; for, by ſhewing them the Advantages of what they ſay they thus want, it may in-

cite them (not to murmure at the negligence of their Parents, but) to attempt the repairing of it by becoming their own Guardians, putting themselves into Discipline, and by the strict Laws of Reason governing and restraining those Passions, which by the liberty of their Breeding have got head, by this means supplying to themselves the first part of Education: And the like may certainly be done for the latter also, if they will but depose that common error, of thinking it more manly to be ignorant than to learn, and be content to put themselves in a course of Erudition, which a man may do for himself in his Closet, as well as a Tutor may do for his Disciple in a School; and though he want many of those Advantages the other hath, yet 'tis possible they may be in a good degree supplied by that industry and desire, which all those are supposed to have, who are thus their own Pupils; and there want not instances of the success of them who have thus attempted, but I confess there are too few Examples of the Attempt, men being apt to sit down contentedly under this want; whereas let the same persons have an entailed Estate alienated from them by any act of their Fathers, they are not then so tame, but will struggle to the utmost to recover their rights. Yet certainly an Ingenuous Education is as properly the Birthright of a *Gentleman*, as any the most firmly setled Inheritance can be: Why should they then acquiesce in that so injurious an Alienation, and not seek by all endeavours of their own to retrieve this so precious a Possession?

SECT.

SECT. V.

Of the second Advantage, Wealth.

1. THE second Advantage we are to consider is that of Wealth, which that it is a blessing will I know readily be assented to by all, mens desires and earnest pursuits after it sufficiently evidencing the general esteem is had of it. Yet though the Conclusion be right, it is to be doubted many infer it not upon due premises. 'Tis not Riches simply considered that are the felicity, much less those luxuries, to which they are often made to minister; but they are like to a fertile ground, which if left without culture, none bears so rank Weeds, but if rightly husbanded, yields abundant profit; and thus to manage and improve them is not only the Interest, but the Duty of all those to whom God hath committed them, this being the one designed Advantage, for which they were intrusted to them.

2. SEVERAL Improvements there are, of which they are capable; but before I proceed to them, I must mention one part of Duty, as fundamental to all the rest. And that is the well husbanding of them; not in a figurative but real sence, the having such a provident care of those

goods and poſſeſſions, wherewith God hath bleſt a Man, as may ſecure them from that Conſumption, to which careleſneſs and ſloth will infallibly betray them. This ſurely is obligatory in many reſpects. Firſt, in Thankfulneſs (I had almoſt ſaid civility) to God, who having diſpenc'd them as a liberality, 'tis ingratitude, yea affront to give them no regard. Secondly, injuſtice to a mans poſterity: He that has received a fair Inheritance from his Anceſtors, if he ſuffer his ſupine negligence to cut off the Entail, he defrauds thoſe that were to have ſucceeded him in it, and becomes that *troubler of his own houſe*, to whom *Solomon*, *Prov.* 11. 29. aſſigns no other *Inheritance* but the *Wind*, which is indeed all ſuch a perſon is like to derive upon his Iſſue, the common air being oftentimes their only Patrimony. Thirdly, in order to all thoſe ends to which Wealth was deſigned by God, which depend on this, as Accidents on their Subjects, and ſo are all at once evacuated and nulled by the diſſipating of that wherein they are founded. All which conſiderations do naturally inforce upon men the neceſſity of a prudent managery.

3. THIS being ſuppoſed, and the perſon having, as in our Law-forms is uſual, covenanted to ſtand ſeiſed of the Eſtate, let us now ſee what are the proper uſes, to which it is to be limited.

IN the firſt place, we may rank that of Contentedneſs in his portion; which though to one that is ſet to wreſtle with want it might ſeem a hard precept, yet to him that flows with abundance

dance it might be thought rather a needleſs than difficult injunction, if experience did not teſtifie, that contentment is oftentimes as great a ſtranger in Palaces as Cottages.

4. Of this excellent both vertue and felicity, there are two parts, the one a chearful enjoyment of ſo much of his Wealth, as may decently (I ſay not vainly) ſupport him in that quality wherein he is placed: God does not make Rich men ſuch mere Conduit-pipes of Wealth, that they muſt paſs all, without retaining any thing themſelves; but rather like the Earth, which though ſhe conveys her ſprings through her veins, yet is allowed to ſuck in ſo much, as may give her a competent refreſhment; and he that does this moderately, and with a thankful reflection on that liberal Providence, which thus *gives him all things richly to enjoy*, 1 *Tim.* 6. 17. falſifies no part of his truſt, nor abuſes his ſtewardſhip; this being, as it were, the allowed Fees of his Place, a Penſion allotted him by the bounty of his Lord.

5. THE other part of contentment is that, by which the deſires are terminated within the bounds of his own poſſeſſions, and not ſuffered to range wildly into other mens, like *Ahabs* into *Naboth's Vineyard*, uſing their Wealth, as Anglers do their Fiſh, to bait Hooks for more, by making it an Inſtrument of extorting from others; which is ſo great a guilt, that it nearly concerns them to ſecure themſelves againſt it, by a perfect ſatisfaction in what is properly

their own. Nay, even in what is said, there is caution to be had, that there be not too eager and vehement endeavours of multiplying it, and that not only by an unlawful commixture with other mens, which is the sin either of oppression or fraud, but even from its own stock, for that may be covetousness, and is surely a direct opposition to the divine dispensation. For when God hath given a man a full fortune, and by that manumitted him from those carkings and solicitudes to which needier persons are exposed, for him to make it his grand business to project how he may add to that heap, or in the Prophets phrase, *lade himself with thick clay*, *Hab.* 2. 6. What is it but the degrading and pulling himself from that Sphere wherein God hath placed him, a voluntary sale of himself to the Gallies or Mines? In this respect therefore I may not unaptly apply that Exhortation which the Apostle makes in another, *Gal.* 5. 1. *Stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made you free.* Let not him whom God hath by a Gracious and peculiar providence exempted from this meaner servitude, and vassalage to the world, relinquish that so valuable a priviledge, give up his *ear* to be *bored* by *Mammon*, when God proclaims a *Jubile*. Yet 'tis possible the quality of some mens Estates may be such, that they may be capable of advancement by a moderate and easie Industry, such as may no way divert them from more excellent Imployments, but may rather be a recreation than a toil: And in that

case

caſe I know no obligation lies on them ſo to defie an Improvement, as not to chooſe a profitable, before an expenſive divertiſement, to ſpend thoſe vacant hours upon that, which remain by way of overplus from more worthy deſigns and entertainments. But the perpetual ſollicitous purſuit after more wealth, is certainly a culpable inordinacy, as being inconſiſtent with that contentment and acquieſcence which is the duty of every man for whom God hath thus liberally provided, and ſuch as will beſides be likely to undermine another main part of this obligation.

6. SUCH in the next place we are to account the Charitable diſpenſing of his ſtore, to ſupply the indigencies of wanting perſons; which ſurely is to be lookt on as the grand and moſt conſiderable end of his receipts. God, who is the common Friend, as well as Father of all men, is not to be imagined ſo partial, as to provide pomps and luxuries for ſome, and in the mean time leave others deſtitute of the neceſſary ſupports of life; yet if we look no deeper than the viſible portions of Poor and Rich, there is no evidence of the contrary. But when we examine upon what Conditions and Proviſo's that Abundance is conveyed, we ſhall have no temptation ſo to aſperſe or *charge God fooliſhly*: For though we have not diſpenſed ſo immediately to the Poor, yet he gives them as it were Bills of Aſſignment upon the plenty of the Rich, a right to be ſupplied by them: ſo that the dif-

ference seems to be only that of an Elder, and Younger brethren; the Elder usually carries the bulk of the Estate, but then that is charged with provisions for the Younger; and if the quantity of those be not distinctly expreſt, but left indefinitely, that Act of Trust in the Father lays the greater obligation on him, not to deceive it by too mean and scanty a distribution; for now himself is become a Father to them, and therefore should proportion his bounty by the tenderness and bowels of that most affectionate relation. And this may not improperly be deemed one reason, why among such multitudes of commands of Charity in the Gospel, there is yet none that expressly allots the proportion of our Alms, that by this act of confidence, as it were, men might be obliged to the higher liberality: And he that shall make this Incentive to it, a pretence to excuse the want of it, is sure a most criminous perverter of the divine intention, treacherously countermining Gods sacred arts, as if 'twere not enough to rebel, unless in a further contempt he assaulted him with his own weapons. Certainly God never designed *Lazarus*'s portion should be made up only of the *Crumbs from the Table*: For though indeed *Dives* is taxed that he gave him not them, yet if he had, such a dole would sure never have rescued him from the place of torment. He who rests in a Rich mans bosom in Heaven, is to have some proportionable treatment from those on Earth, some more hospitable reception than a lying at the Gate,

some

some better Chirurgeons than Dogs to cure his Sores; and those that refuse it him, must be presumed to contemn not only the *Lazarus*, but the *Abraham*, yea the Heaven too that receives him, since that which qualifies him for an admittance there, is not able to recommend him to their least regard.

7. I SHALL not attempt to proportion mens Charities, since God hath not; yet there are some general measures to be made to bound them on the sinking side, that they fall not to too scandalous a lowness; which having been done already by a * better Pen, I shall refer the Reader thither. But those yet leave mens Compassions full scope to grow up to what greater height Gods grace and mens exigencies shall advance them: And surely the latter may sometimes be such, that it will become every Rich man not only to rifle his Coffers, pour out whatsoever his superfluities have there amassed, but also to defalk much of his own accustomed enjoyments, cause the Rasor to pass even upon his whole Equipage, to cut off all Excrescencies, all exuberant Expences, that so the stream may run the fuller in that one channel which Gods providence thus cuts out for it. Whether this may not be a proper season for it, I leave every considering person to judge. At the present I shall beseech every man to whom God hath given Wealth, sadly to ponder how scandalous a thing it will be for him who has been the Object of so great Bounty, to decline the

* Dr. *Hammonds* Practical Catechism.

the being an Agent in any; to discover himself to have suckt in nothing of the virtue, amidst such an influence of the commodities; and to defie the Example of that Liberality, by whose effects he lives. But withal let him consider the danger of it also, how dreadful a guilt (and consequently vengeance) he draws upon himself, if he shall defeat this so main end of his receipts. It is indeed a complication of many crimes not only against Man but God also: I shall instance only in two, most generally decried, and yet most eminently contained in it, Unthankfulness, and Falseness.

8. GOD in his wisdom discerning that Equality of Conditions would breed confusion in the World, has ordered several states, designed some to Poverty, others to Riches, only annexing to the Rich the care of the Poor; yet that rather as an advantage, than a burden, a seed of more wealth both temporal and eternal. Now in this division of men, those on whom he hath caused the better lot to fall, can owe it to nothing but his gracious disposal; and therefore had been certainly obliged to submit to any the most difficult tasks he should have dispensed with it. But now that in his great indulgence he has so tempered the command, as to render it not an allay, but an enhancement of the mercy, he that gives it only a bare tastless compliance, betrays himself to want a just sense of it; but he that flatly resists it, is in the most transcendent degree barbarously ingrate. Nay, I think I might have

laid

laid the charge higher, and called it malice; for what beneath that can provoke a man thus to resist his duty and interest together?

9. NOR is this all, 'tis also the greatest Perfidiousness: Every rich man is, as I said before, God's Steward, and particularly intrusted to provide for the indigent parts of his Family, such are the poor and needy. Now if he leave them destitute, and suffer either his riot or covetousness to feed upon their Portions, what more detestable falseness can be committed, not only in respect of them, whose right he thus invades, but of God also, whose trust he abuses? Many other enormities there are in Uncharitableness, which as so many misshapen limbs concur to the making up this deformed Monster; but I shall suppose it sufficient to have pointed out these two, which being the most professly contrary to ingenuity, I must hope will carry a very averting appearance to those who so especially pretend to that quality.

10. To this positive port of duty, the being *rich in good works*, we find the Apostle connects a negative, 1 *Tim.* 6. 17. *Charge them that be rich in this world that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches.* And we need not resort to implicite faith in the Author, to perswade us of the great propriety and fitness of these cautions; 'tis too evident that Pride and Confidence are diseases that usually breed in full and opulent fortunes, and as they spring from the same root, so do they, like neighbouring branches, mutually shelter

and

and support one another. He that is high-minded, abhors the submission of any foreign dependence, and therefore gladly anchors on any thing he can call his own; and thinking his wealth most properly so, he has as great an aptness, as holy *Job* expresses an aversion, to *make Gold his hope, and to say to the fine gold, thou art my confidence*, *Job* 31. 24. On the other side, he that trusts in his Wealth, is by that fortified in his pride. It is *Aristotle*'s observation, that *wealth makes contumelious* and insolent; which I presume he infers not only from experience, but reason also; for the ground-work of humility being the sense of impotence and defect, he that assumes a self-sufficiency, undermines that foundation, and instead of it lays the *basis* of the quite contrary temper, all haughtiness and elation of mind. A memorable example of this we have in the insolent reflections of *Nebuchadnezzar*, *Dan.* 4. 30. which had withal so dismal a consequent, as, methinks, should like *Lot's wife* remain a perpetual monument to deter others from all approaches towards the like vanity.

11. AND certainly it is a most important concernment of rich men, to fence themselves against this double temptation; to which purpose they can hardly find a more complete armour, than what they may borrow from one short sentence of the Apostle, 1 *Cor.* 4. 7. *What hast thou that thou hast not received?* Let them look on themselves as mere Receivers, and then with what pretence can they pride themselves in that wherein

wherein they are barely passive? Nay indeed if it be throughly scann'd, these Receits imply cause rather of shame than boasting; the being filled from anothers hand, is a sure Argument (and tacit Reproach) of a natural and original emptiness; and if God have dealt so liberally with them, they may collect 'tis in compliance not with their merits, but infirmities; his having made them rich is a strong presumption, he saw them not prepared to be innocently poor: And sure Pride must be a subtile Alchymist, that can hence extract matter of vanity, and might with equal Logick have perswaded the *Jews* to glory in those indulgences, which were granted them only for the *hardness of their hearts.*

12. IN like manner if they reflect on their *riches* as received, it renders them also a most unfit object of *Trust.* For if they were given, they may also be taken away. We hold all by that old *tenure,* which the Lawyers style *Alodium,* because it is from none but God: and his gifts (of this kind at least) are never so absolute, as to exclude power of revocation. He then that enjoys a thing not upon right but bounty, must ask his benefactor how far he is to presume on it. And if they would do so in this case, they would soon be resolved how little confidence were to be reposed in wealth. They may hear *God* the great Patron tell them by *Solomon,* that *riches make themselves wings, and fly away as an Eagle, Prov.* 23. 5. by *Christ,* that the *Treasures* which they lay up here are liable to the *Moth, and rust, and Thieves;*

and

and by the *Apoſtle*, that they are *uncertain riches*. Nay indeed, if they would but ask themſelves, their own daily experience and obſervation, that would bear the ſame teſtimony. Every day almoſt gives ſome renewed inſtance of it. What multitudes of accidents are there to which mens goods are liable? A rough Wind, a tempeſtuous Sea ſinks at once the Merchant and his Ship: an ill ſeaſon, an hungry ſoil eats out the Huſbandman: and they who run not either of theſe hazards, thoſe whom neither the water nor the earth ſwallow up, a Fire may yet conſume. And can there any ſecurity be fancied in that wealth, which is thus a prey to each element ſingle, and yet more often to them united in man, to whoſe frauds or violences more have owed their impoveriſhing, than to any of the former accidents? And now what greater infatuation can there be, than to place a truſt on that which is ſo flitting and unſteady, to lean on a broken reed, or in *Solomons* phraſe, *to ſet ones eyes upon that which is not?*

13. BUT if by an impoſſible ſuppoſition, we ſhould imagine Riches to be as permanent, as they are indeed tranſitory: yet unleſs they had as well *Strength* as conſtancy, they could with no reaſon be depended on. He that ſtays by his friend to the laſt minute, if he have no power to aſſiſt him, is only a ſpectator, not a reliever of his ſufferings. And alas, how many miſeries are men ſubject to, in which wealth can give them no aid! Is a man afflicted in his body with pain? The

Indies

Indies are not a competent price for a minutes eaſe, an hours ſleep. Is he perſecuted in his Name with reproach? 'Tis not whole *Ingots* of gold that will ſtop the mouth of Fame: nay oftentimes the obloquy is it ſelf merely the progeny of his wealth, that breeding envy, and envy detraction. But if the ſore lie yet deeper, if it be the *Soul* that ſuffers, that is yet farther removed from poſſibility of relief this way. If it ſuffer as a ſlave under the dominion of ſin, no treaſure can redeem from that vaſſalage. Wealth does indeed too often by adminiſtring temptation ſtrengthen thoſe chains, but it cannot break them, as appears too evidently by the number of ſuch rich bondmen. If it groan under the guilt of ſin, labour under the terrors of an accuſing Conſcience, alas! gold is no balm to a wounded ſpirit: the luxuries which that has ſupported may help to pierce, but it has no power to heal. Or laſtly, if the Soul fall finally under the puniſhment of ſin, there is no commuting that penance, buying off that ſmart: Riches abuſed may indeed ſwell the accompt, and multiply the ſtripes, but they can never bribe the remiſſion of any. The Wiſe-man hath aſſured us this, *Prov.* 11. 4. *Riches profit not in the day of wrath.* Nor does this carry any oppoſition to the counſel of our Saviour, *Luke* 16. 9. of *making friends of the Mammon of unrighteouſneſs:* for he refers not there to any natural or inherent property of riches, but only to that extrinſick and accidental advantage may be made of them proportionably

to

to what was said before of the *unjust Steward*, whose dextrous managery was it that rendred his Lords debts so useful to him; not that they had any proper innate vertue to secure him from the necessity either of begging or digging. And therefore we see Christs words run not in an Annunciative, but an Exhortatory style: he tells us not that *Mammon* shall make us friends, but excites us to make that our own care, and by a prudent disposure to make it subservient to an end above its native efficacy. But all this is sure very reconcileable with that natural impotency we have observed in it. Wealth charitably disposed may have excellent effects, but yet those are to be ascribed to the Charity, not the wealth, which still remains in its own essence the same unactive lump in the Chest, that it was in the Mine, like the heathen Deities, unable to protect its most zealous Idolaters. As a further instance whereof I may add that which will sound very like a riddle, that riches cannot deliver even from present Want: which yet is demonstrably true in all those rich Misers, whose bellies are lank, while their coffers are full; a sort of Tantalized creatures, not peculiar only to this latter age, for we find them described by *Solomon*, *Eccles. 6. 2. A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof.* So unsignificant a thing is wealth, that without the addition of a new power, it enables him not to receive the least benefit from it.

14. WHEN

14. WHEN all this is considered, what is there in wealth that can invite the least confidence, since it appears so utterly unable to secure men in their most important interests, nay to do that which it most immediately and most colourably pretends to, the keeping them from want? And therefore he that will not run himself upon that sad defeat of being disappointed in his trusts, failed in his greatest exigents, must look out for some firmer grounds whereon to build. But alas! our soil affords it not: all here below was long since pronounced, by one that wanted neither wisdom nor experience, to be Vanity. Such mutations and vicissitudes attend all sublunary things, that he that attempts to erect any durable satisfaction on them, out-does the folly of that absurd architect Christ mentions, and builds not on the *sand*, but *water*: and in this sence the world is still under a deluge, not so much dry ground, as where a dove may rest her foot.

15. WE are then driven by way of necessary refuge, to that which should be our voluntary choice, to come home to the *Ark* to shelter our selves under his wings, where alone we may securely rest, and according to the advice which the Apostle subjoyns to these cautions, to *trust in the living God*. And to do this amidst all the seducements of Wealth, to see through all those mists which the tumes of Plenty raise, and whilest they enjoy the gift, to confide only in the Giver, is indispensably the duty, and should be the care

of every one, to whom S. *Paul* directs this charge, *All that are rich in this world.*

16. AND such in the last place are to take notice of another branch of their obligation, and that is to use that advantage which their Wealth gives them, towards the exercise of *Temperance*: which indeed can never be known to be truly such, but when there are opportunities and temptations to the contrary. He that hath nothing wherewith to maintain a Riot, leaves it doubtful both to others and himself, whether his Abstinences be the effects of Poverty or Temper; but he that has all the fuel for Luxury, and yet permits it not to kindle, he approves his Sobriety to be indeed his Choice, not his fate. And this is a most excellent priviledge of Wealth: and though 'tis to be doubted it scarce finds room in most of our Catalogues, yet certainly it merits a principal place, as being much the greatest of all those, which reflect only upon the person himself. This resisting of Temptations is truly that Heroick courage worthy of those that pretend to Honour, fit to denominate a *Gallant man.* I wish those who seek that reputation by many rash and unwarrantable Adventures, would here entertain their youthful Ardours, this being a Field where they may be assured never to want Combatants. One while *Gluttony* presents itself, armed with the allurements of a full and delicate Table: and though one would think him but a despicable Assailant, that has only the Kitchin for his armory, yet experience shews us, those

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edgleſs weapons may vie with the keeneſt for the mortalneſs of their effects. At another time *Drunkenneſs* ſends a Challenge by delicious Liquor, cheerful and diverting Company, and that not without menace of infamy to him, who ſhall own ſo much religious cowardiſe, as to fear to hazard his Sobriety in the encounter. Sometimes again *Luſt* attaches him with the piercing darts, the killing glances of a proſtitute Beauty. In the mean time *Pride*, the moſt ſlie and treacherous of all the reſt, is perpetually laying ambuſhes for him in the adorations of his Flatterers, the Vanity of his Attire, and innumerable kinds of Exceſſes. And now what *Knight-Errand* would wiſh for more Encounters? Or why ſhould men range abroad to invite Quarrels, whilſt they tamely ſuffer ſuch Troops of enemies to bid them daily defiance? 'Tis, they ſay, a *Maxim* among the *Swordmen*, That *he that has once been baffled, is ever after an incompetent Challenger*: I wiſh it might have this one ſober application, that men would ſuſpend all other *Duels*, till they have righted themſelves on their Vices, and by ſome ſignal Conqueſts redeemed themſelves from that obloquy and defamation, which theſe mean, yet inſulting Adverſaries have expoſed them to.

17. HAVING ſhewed what Uſes are duly to be made of *Wealth*, let us now look back, and conſider whether any of them be ordinarily diſcernible in *Practice*. And here we ſhall meet with one ſort of men, who ſtumble at the very

threshold, that fail in that first part of duty, on which all the rest depend; I mean those who by a supine negligence suffer their *Estates* to moulder and consume insensibly, for want of an easie inspection and oversight. Of such as these former Ages have afforded instances, and doubtless the present also, though the number of the luxurious wasters do now so overwhelm them, that they are the less discernible. And though this seem to be the effect only of sloth, yet certainly there are other concurrents to it, generally these two: first such an overweening of their wealth, that they think it inexhaustible; and secondly an opinion that it is a mean and peasantly thing for a *Gentleman* to give himself the trouble of looking after his fortune. The motives are too ridiculous to deserve a confutation; but in the mean time it cannot but extort pity, to see *Families* ruined by such vain whimsies. And what tolerable account can such a Parent give to his begger'd Off-spring, to whom 'tis very likely he may propagate the pride and sloth which made the mere managery of an Estate too hard for him, and yet withal bequeaths them the sadder toil of getting one? Nay, what account can he give to God, from whom he received it, in order to several ends, if he thus at once defeat them all? 'Twas a Command to the *Jews*, that they *should not cut down Fruit-trees*, though it were for so necessary an use as *to advance a Siege*, *Deut.* 20. 19. But this is the hewing down that Stock, from which so much good Fruit should spring, and that

that without any pretence either of neceſſity or reaſon.

18. OUR next view will preſent us with *another* ſort of *perſon*, who as much tranſgreſſes the duty of contentedneſs in both the parts of it. 'Tis no prodigy to ſee men, whom God hath afforded the portion of the rich, ſcarce to allow themſelves that of the poor; ſo letting their *eye be evil* even to themſelves, *becauſe God is good.* The *Egyptians* were ſuch jealous Reverers of thoſe Creatures which they worſhipped, that he that violated them was in *danger of ſtoning*, *Exod.* 8. 26. So theſe men who have ſet up their Wealth for their God, pay it ſo much veneration, that as they are impatient to have it invaded by others, ſo they are afraid to offer the leaſt violence to it themſelves. They have Inſhrined it to receive their adorations, and it is now become Sacriledge (indeed the only one they ſcruple) to debaſe it to the ſupply of their neceſſities. They are ſtrange auſterities which the *Votaries* of this Deity will endure, even beyond the mortifications of the moſt rigid *Aſcetick*. Their whole lives are a perpetual contradiction to all the appetites of Nature; yet alas! that infers here no compliance with thoſe of Grace, but as if they meant to ſet up a *Third* party in the world, they equally oppoſe theſe. And now he that thus oppreſſes himſelf, no wonder if he do the like to others, if he extort the utmoſt that either power or fraud can wring from any. And that this work may not be retarded, he is provided of variety of inſtruments

for it. Sometimes Bribery must give him a legal colour to rob his neighbour. Or if a Witness prove a better *peny-worth* than the Judge, Subornation shall do the business. Sometimes Extortion shall prey upon a needy Creditor, and that not only with the slower gnawings of the Canker, but with the more ravenous devourings of the Vulture. Sometimes the Rack is brought out, and a poor Tenant fastned on it, and there so strained and distorted, that he can never knit again to any competent subsistence. Sometimes again a poor neighbouring Prodigal shall be spurred on to farther riot, fed with money, that so by a forfeited *Mortgage* he may seise on his Estate. In a word, 'twere endless to reckon up all the engines of rapine which this greedy Invader hath in his magazine. And of such a one I presume every man will pronounce, that he notoriously violates the precept of Contentedness.

19. BUT though this be the grossest, yet is he not the only Transgressor. There is also *another* more plausible sort, who though they do not thus seek to encrease their wealth at other mens costs, yet do it too much at their own; whose Brains are mere forges of Projects, perpetually hammering out some new Contrivance for gain, that continually travel in birth of some fresh Improvement, suffer all the pangs and throws of a carking solicitude in pursuit of it. I know this piece of *Covetousness* hath better luck than the rest, and passes for a creditable thing, under the specious name of good husbandry; but

sure

ſure if it be throughly penetrated, it will appear no leſs oppoſite to Contentment than the former. Nor can that guilt be invaded by thoſe that ſay, they ſeek to advance their Fortunes, not out of the Miſers deſign of hoarding up, but out of the more generous purpoſe of living more ſplendidly. For ſure he that covets more to ſpend, is as little contented in his portion, as he that covets more to lay up: he that thinks his Table too ſcanty, his equipage too low, is as far from being ſatisfied, as he that thinks his land too little, his bag too empty. So that 'tis apparent theſe arrows come out of the ſame quiver, though they be ſhot at ſeveral marks.

20. AND between both theſe motives of griping, no wonder if the *Duty of Alms-giving* be crowded into a very narrow compaſs. That excellent vertue of Charity has indeed much of the Image and impreſs of *Chriſt* upon it: but the World has given it a further kind of conformity with him than he ever deſign'd, its crucifixion between Covetouſneſs and Luxury, being the counterpart of his *hanging between the Thieves.* There wants only one member of the parallel, the *breaking the legs* of theſe *Malefactors,* which God knows our *Souldiers,* nay many armies of them have not been able to do. The many inſtances theſe times have given of the ſudden diſſipation of mens Idolized heaps, have not yet ſo diſciplined the Worldling, as to perſwade him to *lay up his treaſure in heaven.* And the loud calls

of God to weeping and *mourning and girding with sackcloth*, have most preposterously been Ecchoed back with the louder noise of mens revellings, and wild jollities. And then they who thus despise the judgments of God, are very unlikely to compassionate the miseries of men, and I doubt there are many who thus answer the character of the unjust *Judge*, *Luke* 18. *that neither fear God nor regard man*, nay that far outgo him in inexorableness of temper. He was to be wrought upon by *importunity*; but so petrified are these mens bowels, that no prayers nor tears can dissolve them. 'Tis a much easier task to dig Metal out of its native Mine, than to fetch it out of the covetous mans Coffer. The Earth, though she hide, yet she guards not her treasure, 'tis accessible to the industry of any that will search for it: but he like an *Argus* stands Centinel about his, and sounds an alarm upon the remotest appearance of a poor suppliant. With what jealousie does he eye any that he can but fancy to come upon that ungrateful errand, and then how many arts has he to prevent the assault? Or if by some extraordinary Charm all his eyes have so slept at once, that he happen to be surprized, yet he has so many weapons of defence, that the assailant shall gain little by it, but the shame of an open repulse, being sure to find him impregnable. As for the *Voluptuary*, he has so many expensive lusts to maintain, that he has difficulty enough how to gratifie all them in the distribution of his wealth: they are competi-

tors

tors to each other, yet joyn to keep out that which would be a common one to them all. He that grudges not the wildeſt profuſions of his wealth, yet thinks an Alms will undo him. 'Tis the grand buſineſs of his life to contrive ways of expence; yet when any object of Charity preſents one, he becomes thrifty on the ſudden, like the *Senſitive plant* ſhrinks at that touch, and that open hand of his clutches as faſt, as if ſome convulſion had contracted it. Thus totally have men forgot upon what terms their wealth was given them, and thereby like miſerable Chymiſts, extract Poyſon out of Cordials, a Curſe out of a Bleſſing. Riches were deſigned by God to be ſubſervient to that Compaſſion which he has implanted in humane nature: but now they are become the means of ſuppreſſing and eradicating it. Rich men look upon poor, as if they were creatures of another *ſpecies*, things wherein they were perfectly unconcerned. 'Tis *Strada*'s fancy, that there is ſuch a *ſympathy raiſed between two Needles touched by the ſame Loadſtone, that perſons at the greateſt diſtance may by the conſent of their motion maintain a correſpondency.* I ſhall not undertake for the truth of the Experiment, but however methinks 'tis matter of reproach to us, that theſe inanimate creatures ſhould have ſo much obſervable accord, as to give pretence for ſuch a conjecture, whileſt men who have ſo many undoubted principles of union both from nature and grace, have quite extinguiſhed all effects of them. That too many have ſo, there needs

needs no other evidence than the many unsuccour'd extremities of the Poor. For how else can it become possible, that one rank of men should gluttonize, and another starve? That he that thinks it death to endure either the want or moderation of a Meal, should never consider what are the gripings of the still empty stomach? that he should without all regret see his own humane nature pining and languishing in the person of his poor brother, whilest in himself 'tis oppress't with the quite contrary excesses, and might be relieved in both by a more equal distribution?

21. AND now who can sufficiently deplore the wants of the Poor, shall I say, or rather the inhumanity of the Rich! This surely is the sadder spectacle of the two: the one only suffers, the other sins. And that suffering too may end in eternal refreshment, whereas the other in endless torment. *Lazarus rests in Abrahams bosom*, when the uncharitable *Glutton fries* in perpetual *flames*. And oh that this were throughly weighed, that they would consider that every degree of unmercifulness they shew to others, reverts with a rebounded force upon themselves! Alas, 'tis not so much the poor mans body, as their own souls, that sue for their alms. And whenever they shut up their bowels of compassion from the one, what do they but σφραγίζειν ταμεῖα, *seal up* Gods *storehouses* and treasuries from the other? When they deny the *crums* from their *table*, they deny themselves a *drop of water to cool their tongues*.

22. BUT

22. BUT I fear this of Illiberality may pass for a moderate crime in this Age, when so many are guilty of another so far transcending it. For do we not see divers, who instead of abating their Excesses to relieve the poor, do *maintain* their Riot upon them? If the desperate *Debts* of poor Tradesmen were examined, I doubt not this would appear a sad truth. 'Tis become so fashionable a thing to run into Scores, and so unfashionable to pay them, that he is scarce thought well-bred, that has not bankrupted one at least of each Trade he deals with. Their only care is to get credulous Merchants, who so long as they trust stoutly shall have fair words, but if once their faith fail, then, as if the *Solifidian* doctrine had stretcht itself into Traffick as well as Divinity, they are pronounced Reprobates, and as solicitously avoided as the *Separatist* shuns a person whom he is pleased to call carnal. Posterns and obscure passages are contrived on purpose to escape them; so that a poor Greditor must give many days, nay moneths attendances, before he can so surprise a *Gentleman*, as to come but to ask his own; and then the best return he usually meets with, is some empty promises to bribe a delay. But sometimes he fares much worse, and as if 'twere a crime not to starve silently, he is reviled and reproached, and harsh and contumelious language become his only payment. It has been received as a Maxim, *That we are all kind to our own creatures*: But this case shews 'tis no universal rule; for those who thus make

make poor men, are of all others the most barbarous to them in their poverty. But let those who thus shuffle off their Reckonings with men, remember that there will come a day, when they shall not be able to decline their Accompt to God. And with what horrour and confusion must they appear at that Audit, when they shall be charged not only with the mispending their own estates, but other mens, the having added robbery to unmercifulness?

23. IF in the next place we shall reflect on the Apostles caution of *not being high-minded* or *trusting in uncertain riches*, we must turn to our Bibles to be satisfied there was ever any such charge given, there is so little of it to be read in mens practices. Humility is a plant, that is carefully weeded out of all rich grounds, accounted a mean degenerous quality, that like Treason *attaints* the blood, and forfeits Nobility. *Gentlemen*, though they are for the most part very guiltless of the *Pharisee*'s abstinence, the *fasting twice a week*, do yet transcribe the worse part of his copy, the thinking they are *not like other men*, and believe it a justice they owe their birth to do so. They have mounted themselves aloft, and looking down from those Pinacles of Honour, all below seem little and contemptible, creeping things of the Earth, *Worms and no Men*. I am not so for confounding of Qualities, as to exact they should choose their Intimates and Companions out of the lowest rank. I know Prudence as well as Pride has drawn a

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Partition-wall between them (though perhaps the latter has raiſed it to an unneceſſary height) but I wiſh it might be remembred, that as the Precept of *Not eating Blood* was deſigned not for it ſelf, but as an Hedge againſt Murder, ſo that juſt diſtance, which Order recommends between the Noble and the Mean, is valuable only as a fence againſt baſe and ignoble practices; true greatneſs conſiſting in deſpiſing not the perſons, but the vices of the vulgar. Yet here alas! the ſcene is quite changed, and many who look the moſt faſtidiouſly on the one, will yet mix freely with the other; and while they ſoar the higheſt in the opinion of their ſuperiority, do yet ſtoop to the ſordid beſtialities of the moſt abject of men. Nay, indeed this Lure does ſometimes make many of them deſcend even from their punctilioes, and thoſe who at another meeting muſt have look'dfor no other treatment but what St. *James* deſcribes, *Jam.* 2. 3. *Stand thou there, or ſit here under my foot-ſtool,* ſhall in the rounds of good fellowſhip be equal with the beſt: ſuch a Leveller is Debauchery, that it takes off all diſtinctions. But in the mean time how great a ſhame is it, that ſuch vicious motives ſhall have force enough to make them thus degrade themſelves, when all the Engagements of Chriſtianity are not able to do that which is much leſs, to abate any thing of thoſe tumours, thoſe ſwelling conceits of their own greatneſs or (in the *Pſalmiſt*'s phraſe) to make them *know themſelves to be but Men*?

24. NOR

24. NOR has the *other* branch of the caution any better ſucceſs among them. 'Tis in many of them too diſcernible, that they place that *Truſt in uncertain Riches*, which they ſhould repoſe only in the *living God*; ſo making his Gifts his Rivals, and raiſing him a Competitor even of his own Bounty. For this we need no other ways of probation, than only to examine, whether it is, that in any caſe of difficulty or diſtreſs they make their earlieſt and moſt importunate addreſſes, for there we may conclude them to fix the greateſt confidence. And I fear 'tis too apparent, that where wealth makes but any the ſlighteſt pretences, promiſes the leaſt aid, though but remote, and at the ſecond hand, it has moſt of their applications. Thus in caſe of *Diſeaſe*, they whoſe plenty enables them for the coſtlier methods of cure, is not their firſt reſort thither? Do not their Fees fly faſter than their Prayers? And are they not much haſtier to invite the Phyſician than the Divine? Nay, indeed the latter is ſcare ever admitted, till the former have forſaken them; a ſhrewd indication, where their prime hopes are built. So again in any diſaſtrous event, the firſt Eſſay is whether Mony will heal the Wound. He that is under the diſpleaſure of a Superior, ſeeks to appeaſe by Preſents, or buys the *friendſhip* of a *Blaſtus*, *Acts* 12. 20. to mediate for him. He that is brought before a Tribunal, endeavours with the ſame golden Engine to draw off his Proſecutor, to bend and incline his Judge. He whoſe Wealth

Wealth makes him purſued as a deſirable Prey, expects his ſafety even from that which is the original of his danger; and as if like a *Scorpion* it alone could cure its own ſting, tries whether a part will ſecure the whole. And in the mean time no attempt is made to call in God to their reſcue; as if he were an Idle unconcern'd Spectator of humane affairs, or ſo inconſiderable an Ally, as not to be worth the care of engaging him on their ſide. Nay even in their laſt and dreadfulleſt danger, many ſeem not to quit their dependence on their Wealth; ſome *Teſtamentary Charities* muſt then do wonders for them, and paſs for all thoſe *Fruits of Repentance*, which ſhould ſecure them from the *Wrath to come*. Even thoſe that have drunk the blood of the Poor, ſuffered the moſt of it to incorporate into their Eſtates, think by diſgorging ſome ſmall part of it (which perhaps lies crude, not yet ſo digeſted) in a *Legacy*, to eaſe their conſciences: ſo adapting their Reſtitutions to their Rapines, only in this one reſpect, that thoſe as well as theſe are of another mans goods; they never commencing till death hath diſſeized them of all propriety, as if the *Iniquity of the Fathers* were in this ſence to be *viſited upon the Children*. Thus *their Wills* become their only Paſs-port, to convey them to *Abraham*'s boſom, and by thus *cajoling* the Poor at parting, they truſt to extinguiſh the clamours of all former oppreſſions, and in ſpight of *Solomon* will hope, that *Riches ſhall profit in the day of wrath*. It will not here be

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pertinent to inquire how many other objects of Truſt they have, which divert them from that one, to which the Apoſtle directs them. It may ſuffice in general to ſay, that none can be ſuppoſed indeed *to truſt on the living God*, but thoſe who by ſincere piety qualifie themſelves for his protection; according to which meaſure 'tis to be feared many even of the faireſt pretenders will be excluded.

25. IF now we proceed to the *laſt* part of the *Rich mans Duty*, the exerciſe of *Temperance*, we may without an *Augur* divine the return of that Inqueſt. For it having formerly appeared, that they turn that ſtream, which ſhould flow in Charity, to make the fuller current for their Luxury, 'tis viſible they are far from deſigning any ſelf-denial. But if that inference were not proof enough of it, they daily give us ocular demonſtrations: What ſtudious proviſions do they make for the fleſh *to fulfil the luſts thereof? Rom.* 13. 14. Nature affords not Meat delicate enough for their palats; it muſt be adulterated with the coſtly mixtures of Art, before it can become *Gentile* nouriſhment. And in this they are arrived to ſuch a niceneſs, that Cookery is become a very myſterious Trade, the Kitchin has almoſt as many Intricacies as the Schools. And the quantity of their Meat is not leſs extravagant than the kind: One that did but examine their *Bills of Fare*, would think the Dogs appetite were the Epidemick Diſeaſe among them, if he did not conſider they had Eyes to be fed as well as Bellies.

Bellies. Nor will they be so Ununiform, as not to have their Drink bear a full proportion with their Meat; and 'twere well if it did no more, that their Drinking had but those set hours of their Meals, that so there might be at least some Intervals and Pauses in their Debauches; whereas now many persons allow themselves no longer Intermissions than may just qualifie them for a new Excess; recover their wits only so far, as may put them in capacity of losing them again.

26. BUT besides these, there is *another sort of provision for the flesh*, of which they are no less solicitous, and which many buy in at very dear rates. The embraces of a wife are as nauseous to them, as *Manna* to the *Israelites*. 'Tis Variety they hunt after; and so they might have the *Turk*'s *Seraglio*, they would not stick to take his *Mahometanism* withal. Nay if that were as agreeable to their Reason to believe, as to their inclinations to imbrace, they would certainly reckon it a considerable part of the prize, as that which to the present possession superadds a liberal reversion of those brutish delights, and would think they had made a very commodious Bargain, to have so exchanged the Christians present purity, and future Heaven.

27. TO all these Excesses, that of their *Apparel* does perfectly correspond: so much cost, so much business goes to it, that one may almost as cheaply and easily rig out a Ship, as *set out a Gentleman* in his compleat Equipage. How

many Artificers go there to the piecing him up! He that should assign him one to each Limb, would much contract the number, which is indeed so great, that if it were computed 'twould be found it constituted most of the Trades in a Common-wealth. A strange disproportion, that the Little World should so much outvie the Greater; and a lively instance it is of the multiplying faculty of Vanity, that can improve Natures simple necessity of covering, to such an exorbitant excess, and has nurst up the first Fig-leaves to such a luxuriant growth, that the *Hercinian Oaks*, which *Mela* tells such wonders of, are but a kind of Pigmy-plant to them that thus overspread the World, and from covering of Shame, are grown to shadow and darken Reason itself, so creating a *Moral* nakedness, whilst they hide a Natural.

28. TO all the rest we may add their *Sports* and *Recreations*, the expensiveness whereof is no way inferiour to all the former. *Gaming*, like a Quick-sand, swallows up a man in a moment; and how many such Wrecks have these latter Ages produced? *Hawks*, and *Hounds*, and *Horses*, *&c.* are somewhat slower devourers, yet as they are managed by some, tend much to the same end: so that me thinks such men seem to make the same menace to their Estates, which *Goliah* did to *David*, 1 *Sam.* 17. 44. *I will give thee to the fouls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.* Such vast numbers of them they have, and those kept with such niceness and curiosity, as if they had

had a design to debauch the poor animals, and infect them with their luxury. 'Tis now no news in the literal sence, to have the *Childrens bread given to Dogs*; and it may within a while be as little, to have not only their Children, but themselves want it. For Prodigality is of the nature of the Viper, and eats out the bowels of that Wealth which gave it birth; and *Actæon*'s fate was both Emblem and Story, *to be eaten up with his own Dogs.*

29. WE have seen now how much their *Practice* swerves from their *Duty*: Let us next a little consider, whether they might not be happier, if they were regulated by it. And first, *a prudent oversight* of their *Estates* is sure far from being such an oppressing burden as some are willing to fancy it. For if it be moderate, and such only I recommend, it is supposed to exclude all painful and disquieting solicitudes, and then it becomes only of the nature of a Divertisement, helps them off with some of those spare hours, whose emptiness becomes their Load, and which they would else be in pain, and probably at no small cost to dispose of. And I see not why it should not be full as pleasant at the instant, to talk of their own affairs, as of other mens, (which yet are the usual entertainment of those that neglect their own;) to take up Accompts at home, as Reckonings at the Tavern: And I am sure 'tis much more so in the consequences of it, as much as Peace is above Discord and Tumult, Plenty above Indigence and Necessity.

30. NEXT for *Contentment*, universal consent supersedes the labour of proving that a happiness, it being unanimously accorded to be the Elixir and Quintessence of all that pretends to that title; to be to all these outward things, as the Soul is to the Body, that which animates and inspirits them; without which they are but dead, yea noisome carcasses, pressures instead of enjoyments. This is the true *Philosophers stone*, that turns all it touches into Gold; the poor man is Rich with it, and the Richest poor without it. Whoever therefore desires to improve his Estate, let him begin his culture or husbandry upon his mind, plant there this Tree of Life, the shade whereof will yield him a perpetual refreshment, 'twill make him always as Rich as he desires to be; and he certainly knows not what he asks, that demands more.

31. THE next Duty that of *Liberality*, may perhaps be thought not to have so amiable an aspect; but it is only by those who look upon it through false Glasses: men generally consider it as a piece of spiritual rapine, an Engine framed by Divines to force open their Coffers, and plunder them without a War. But if they would but turn the right end of the *Perspective*, 'twould then have a quite contray appearance; they would discern that it is the means to multiply, not diminish their store, a more profitable way of usury than any the greediest Extortioner hath ever found out. 'Tis *a lending to the Lord*, *Prov.* 19. 17. who surely is the most solvent Debtor any man

can deal with, and one who never makes ſcanty retributions. This I am confident might be atteſted eventually true by all thoſe who have attempted to make the experiment. The only prejudice that can lie againſt their Teſtimony is the paucity of thoſe that have ſo attempted (and would to God men would conſpire to ſolve that Objection) for were all charitable perſons ſummon'd to give in their accounts, I doubt not it would appear their bounty had enriched, not impoveriſhed them. I am ſure I have met with ſeveral remarkable inſtances of it, but never yet with one to the contrary: and therefore if either reaſon or preſident may have force, he that conſiders but rightly his own temporal Intereſt cannot but have appetite to this Duty, in reſpect of himſelf. And yet where there are many bowels, this is but a faint inducement compared with that which ariſes from the calamities of the perſons to be relieved. The wants of the Poor are loud and paſſionate Orators, ſuch as cannot miſs to work upon any, on whom covetouſneſs hath not firſt wrought the unhappy *Metamorphoſis*, of turning them into ſtone. And theſe having once conveyed into a mans mind a compaſſionate regret, himſelf groans under that preſſure, which he ſees cruſhing the other: and then what can be more pleaſant than by a ſeaſonable charity to eaſe both? None doubts of the Receivers delight, but ſure that is ſhort of the Givers, by how much the interior ſenſe is more ſubtile and acute than the exterior. Would God thoſe who make it their

Trade to hunt after pleasures, would try but this One piece of Epicurism, and then I doubt not, they would acknowledge that all meat is insipid, compared with that, which they eat with the poor mans mouth; the most splendid apparel sordid and inglorious, in respect of that they wear upon his back; and all pleasures and recreations joyless and uneasie, ballanced with those transcendent delights which attend the exercise of Christian liberality.

32. NOR have they in the next place any reason to suspect the Apostle treacherous to their present interest, when he seeks to dispoil them of that either *Pride*, or confidence, which their Riches are apt to create. For the former 'tis certain all haughty persons may very properly interrogate themselves in that form, we find *Wisd.* 5. 8. *What hath Pride profited us, or what good hath Riches with our vaunting brought us?* It would surely puzzle the most experienced man to define what there is in Pride, that can afford any felicity. The utmost that can be pretended is, that it is a lively chearful thing to have good thoughts of ones self; but he that can in earnest make this plea for Pride, does in justice owe as fair an *encomium* to *Bedlam*: for according to this measure that contains the happiest people, there being those that are the most highly rapt in the opinion of their own Excellencies. Yet sure we should judge him in good Election for the place, that should look upon it with appetite. But admit this might indeed pass for a pleasure, yet it is the

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parent of a far greater uneasiness, and like a carcass breeds a worm that devours it self. For he that looks on himself with such reverence, exacts that all others should do so too, and when he fails in that aim (as none so frequently does, as the proud) what disquiets and impatiencies is he under! such as infinitely overwhelm all the pleasure of his vain complacencies. A little disrespect from *Mordecai* is able to evacuate all *Haman*'s prosperity. Such a Cheat and Impostor is Pride, that whilst it pretends to exalt, it debases; whilst it elevates a man above others, it really subjects him to them, puts him in their power to torment and cruciate, and whilst it makes shew of advancing, 'tis but in the same manner that the Rack extends the stature by dislocating the Joynts. And then I hope 'twill be no unfriendly office to perswade men, to keep themselves from that Engine of pain, or to recommend to them such an humility of mind, as may preserve them in that security and composedness, which is fundamentally necessary to all true happiness.

33. THE very same judgment is to be made of the other Branch of the Caution, the *not trusting in uncertain Riches, but in the living God*: which is most visibly every mans present concernment. He that can entertain a doubt of it, let him but fall into the hands of some treacherous or but impotent person, that shall in some important affairs betray his trust, or deceive his hopes, and then let him tell me whether it be not a mans

immediate and most pressing Interest, to build his confidences on the Rock, not on the Sand. Nothing but the amazing exigencies of a sinking man can excuse the folly of catching at Reeds; but he that should deliberately elect such Supporters, would be thought as mad, as he is sure to be miserable. Yet this is but the faint and imperfect Emblem of him who rests upon his Wealth: whereas on the other side he that shelters himself under the shadow of the Almighty, is possest of a most inexpugnable Fortress. For how can he fail of security that has Omnipotency for his Guard, or be deluded in his trusts, that depends on Truth itself? Let these so distant states be compared, and then sure I shall not need to anticipate any mans judgment, but may leave him to pronounce on which side his Interest as well as Duty lies in this particular.

34. LASTLY, *Temperance* also puts in her claim to *Pleasure*, which I presume those will be sure to resist, who place that wholly in the satisfaction of the sensual appetite. Yet I believe one might take even these men in such a season, when they should be forced to give up their verdict for it. Come to the *Glutton* when he is labouring under the load of an overcharged stomach; to the *Drunkard* when his mornings qualm is revenging on him his last nights debauch; to the *lustful* person, when the torment of his bones admonishes him of the sins of his flesh: and then ask them whether *Temperance* be not more pleasant than its contrary. I can scarce think the

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Devil has any such stout *Confessors*, but will then betray his cause. But this vertue is in itself too amiable to need any of these Foils to illustrate it; the pleasure of subduing a Lust, of denying an Appetite, is not only nobler, but greater than any is to be had in the most transporting moment of satisfying them. Every man will call him a Brute, that when an Enemy is in the Field loses the opportunity of a glorious Victory, and exposes himself to certain Captivity, rather than forsake his Liquor or other sordid pleasure. And this is just the decision of the present case; Our Lusts are our mortallest Enemies, and every time they assault us, 'tis in our choice either by resisting them to gain a signal Conquest, or else by stooping to those despicable Cures they hold out to us, to be vanquished by them. He that chuses the last, if he have any shadow of pleasure, 'tis only that of a *Beast*, (like an Horse, who though he hath indeed the satisfaction of receiving Meat, yet he also takes the Bridle, yea the Whip too from the same hand.) 'Tis the former only, that is the pleasure of a *man*, which I suppose sufficient to evince to which the difference belongs. For sure none can think God hath been so unkind to his own Image in humane nature, as in the dispensation of felicity to assign the larger share to the *Brutes*. And therefore in this particular as well as the rest we may conclude, that he is not only the most pious but the most happy person, that makes the right uses of his Wealth.

SECT.

SECT. VI.

Of the Third Advantage, that of Time.

1. LET us now proceed to the third Advantage, that of *Time*: which though men do often ſo induſtriouſly waſte, as if it were rather a burden than an advantage, yet the differing eſtimates they make of it, when it is near expiring, the paſſionate *Death-bed* wiſhes of a few days reprieve, witneſs that it has a real value. For were it an empty uſeleſs thing, it would not then begin to appear conſiderable, when all other vanities grow in contempt with us. The unhappineſs of it is, that men learn to prize it, as they do moſt other good things, rather by the want than the enjoying, buy the skill of trading with the loſs of the Talent, which ſhould maintain the Traffick, and then only come to account it a treaſure, when they can no longer diſpoſe it to any benefit; and that diſpoſing alone is it that can render it truly valuable. It is therefore a moſt neceſſary providence to learn this art of improvement, this piece of ſpiritual husbandry, without which a mans ſelf becomes that accurſed ſoil, the Apoſtle mentions, *Heb. 6. 8. Whoſe end is to be burned.* Let us therefore a while examine what are thoſe Imployments of our Time,

Time, which may render it moſt fertile to our preſent comfort, and future account.

2. EVERY man ſays (though perhaps few conſider) that *our time here is but a prologue to Eternity* elſewhere, and that the condition of that Eternity, whether happy or miſerable, depends upon the well husbanding of this time. That therefore and that only can be the right managery of it, which tends to make our future Eſtate as happy, as it is ſure to be laſting. To this purpoſe God hath chalked us out ſome great lines of Duty, from whence ſo many leſſer do ariſe, as will, if we will permit them, twiſt and wind themſelves with every hour of our lives. And though theſe Duties are in the kind of them obligatory to all conditions of men; yet frequenter Acts of them are expected from thoſe, whoſe Qualities and fortunes give them more vacancy from ſecular toils.

3. FOR certainly it is not to be fancied, that God who has put an active Principle into our nature ſhould induſtriouſly provide for the ſuppreſſing its operations in any, devote ſuch a Select number of men, as an *Hecatomb* to be offered up to *Idleneſs*. And yet much leſs can it be thought, that he ſhould ſo promote that Iniquity, which he profeſſes to hate, as to deſign them to the purſuits of that, *Manumit* them from labour, to leave them freer for vice. And if neither of theſe can be ſuppoſed, if their leiſure were not indulged them either that they might do nothing, or do ill, there remains only a third end imaginable,

imaginable, and that is the doing good; (for as for Sports and Pastimes, the best of them come so near to Idleness, and the worst of them to Vice, that as the one is not to be allowed any, so the other no considerable part of their time.) Now because *none is good but one, that is God, Mark* 10. 18. we can take our measures of good actions only from his prescription; and so those which he has commended as such to Mankind in general, point out to this particular rank of men the nature of their Exercises, as their especial Vacancy and leisure does the higher degrees of them.

4. AND first those of *Piety* towards God justly challenge a great share of their *Time*. For whereas God may seem to have limited and confined the poor mans zeal, by that Rule of *preferring mercy* to themselves *before sacrifice* to him; he does by exempting the rich from those necessities tacitely require their *devotion* to swell up to some proportion with his bounty to them, who being freed from those weights wherewith others are clogged and incumbred, even nature itself suggests the expectation of their soaring higher. He has put them at a distance from the meaner cares and solicitudes of life, as if he were jealous those might prove his rivals, and keep them from growing into a closer intimacy with himself. And shall this design of his love be defeated? And when he has thus secured himself from one sort of Competitor, shall more and baser be sought out, every the triflingest and vilest Entertainment

tainment be courted to come and supplant him? This were indeed to answer that odious character of the *Adultereſs*, *Ezek.* 16. 34. which was not *ſolicited*, but *did ſolicit*. And thoſe that can make ſuch unworthy and provoking returns to ſo endearing a kindneſs, evince themſelves deſtitute not only of grace, but of all degrees of common good nature. For when he ſo projects for their familiarity and converſe, what can be more inhumane and ingrate, than thus ſcornfully to decline it? Yet under this charge all thoſe will certainly fall, who do not imploy (nay devote) every day ſome conſiderable part of this their vacant time to the keeping up their intercourſe with God, by Reading, Prayer and Meditation.

5. IN the next place, *Themſelves* put in for a part. But here I mean not thoſe brutiſh ſenſual ſelves, which have in many (like *Pharaoh*'s lean kine) devoured the nobler and more excellent; but it is the more divine and ſublimated part of them, on which their time is to be laid out. And here they can never want buſineſs, that being in ſeveral reſpects a very proper object of their diligence. For firſt, their *Underſtandings*, how clear and vigorous ſoever, attain not their height at once, are not like *Adam* created in a ſtate of maturity and perfection, but like his degraded poſterity, make gradual motions towards it, advance by ſeveral ſteps and degrees of proficiency; nor can we in this life aſcend to ſuch a *non ultra*, as excludes a poſſibility of growth. So that no advantage of Education can ſuperſede the uſe of

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After-industry, that being still able to make farther improvements, bring in new accessions to their Knowledge. And this is so inviting an entertainment, as may very reasonably expect their companies some hours of the day in their Studies.

6. BUT though this be a considerable, yet is it not the weightiest part of that care they owe themselves. For as the Soul consider'd in its *Intellect*, may thus become their Pupil, so in its *Morals* it has often need to be their Patient. For though in its Original Constitution it was perfectly pure and healthy, yet by inhabiting in this pest-house the Flesh, it hath contracted much of its contagion; and by how much the more delicate and refined its composition is, so much the more mortal are the diseases to which it is subject. It will therefore require a close and wary attendance. A Physician that has a nice and tender Patient, must be very assiduous in his care, observant of all Symptoms, watchful against all accidents. And so certainly should men be here; they should make daily observations how their ghostly strength increases or decays, what Humour most predominates, whether Choler boil up into rage, Phlegm freez into sloth; whether the Sanguineness of their temper make them lustful, or the Melancholly revengeful, and accordingly apply their spiritual Purgatives, the Baths, or the *Palæstra*, prescribe rules of Diet and Exercise. And doubtless whoever makes these daily strict inspections into himself, will by the inesti-

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mable benefit he receives from it, be taught how great a bleſſing his Time is, and how much a greater to have grace thus to employ it.

7. BUT though a *Mans ſelf* be a *Province* wide enough to take up a good part of his time, yet muſt he not ſo ingroſs it, as to defraud his *Neighbour*, who has alſo a right to ſhare in it: God having made man after his own Image, has (as part of that) ſtamped upon him the Bounty and Communicativeneſs of his nature: and therefore when we live wholly to our ſelves, we raſe and deface that Impreſs. And when 'tis remembred that the hainouſneſs even of *Murder* is by God pronounced to ariſe from the *violation of his Image*, *Gen. 9. 6.* parity of reaſon muſt conclude this no light guilt. Nor is it only our Goods we are to impart (for that were a very partial Tranſcript of that Bounty we are to imitate, which gives us ſo much beſides) but in general whatever other Ability we have by which our neighbour may receive advantage: and ſo a man has as many employments of his time, as he either finds or can make opportunities of doing good to others. I ſay make; for ſure ſince God hath conſtituted Love to our neighbour one of the fundamental laws to Mankind, we are not to look upon it only as an accident or caſualty, but as a main and deliberate buſineſs of our lives; not refer it wholly to chance whether ever we ſhall do an act of this kind, or no, but induſtriouſly ſeek out and improve occaſions. Thus we find the Liberality of our Bleſſed Lord repreſented to us in the *parable*

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of the great Supper, Luke 14. 16. where there was not only liberal provisions made for such as would come in, but importunity used to draw them, particular invitations made to the *poor and the maimed, the halt and the blind*; and when that brought not in guests enough, the *High-ways and Hedges* were to be ransacked, and a general Press, as it were, made of men, to receive not the Earnest-peny of Death, (which is usually the signification of our Press-mony) but the Antepast of Eternal life. O that all those who pretend to greatness of mind, would copy out this Munificence, that they would prevent mens desires, and invite them to come and be obliged by them. For want of this, many occasions of doing benefits are lost; the modesty of some, perhaps the pride of others, averts them from requesting those assistances they most need. It were therefore the noblest Study a *Gentleman* could entertain himself with, to search the various Wants of those within his sphere. But then he must be sure to do it with a candid design, the more opportunely to apply himself to their aid: he must not treacherously inquire, who wants knowledge to deride, but instruct them; not hunt out a debauched person, to make him his Companion, but his Convert; not find out quarrels to foment, but compose them; in a word, not pry into other mens concernments, like a busie-body, but a Friend; not to comply with his own curiosity, but their need. And now he that pays a just Tribute of his Time to these three grand Duties, will

will (when the other dues to Nature, temporal Affairs, and neceſſary Civilities are deducted) not have much to ſacrifice either to Idleneſs or Vice, but will rather think he wants Time than Buſineſs.

8. BUT alas, the full leiſure they generally find for the direct contrary employments, witneſſes too irrefragably that they are not thus taken up. It is true indeed, we find God often in their Mouths, but it is rather in Oaths, than Prayers; as if they meant their profanations ſhould be the only teſtimony that they believed a Deity. How many are there ſuch profeſt Votaries to *Bacchus*, that their Knees are reſerved only for him, never to be bent but in drinking of Healths; that ſeem to have enacted to themſelves the prophaner part of *Darius*'s Law, *Dan.* 6. 7. that of *asking no Petition of God*, only herein out-vying him, that theirs is for an indefinite, not limited time; who reckon Saying of Prayers among thoſe pedantick tasks of their childhood, which expire with the Rod and *Ferula*, and can never think fit to debaſe their more Manly ſtate to it, unleſs perhaps a reſtleſs night may force them to call it in to ſupply the place of a more uſual and pleaſing *Anodyne*. Whether this be not the pitch of many *Gentlemens* Devotion, I appeal to any that obſerves their Practice.

9. NOR have they much more to do in the Library, than the Oratory, unleſs it be ſtored with *Romances*: any deeper ſort of reading is as formidable to them, as the Mines or Galleys;

nor do they without wonder look at those who can voluntarily set themselves to tug at those Oars. But Divinity is beyond all others under prejudice with them, decried not only as a crabbed, but *ungentile* study; so that upon pain of Reproach, none are to know more of it, than may just qualifie them to deride it; or read the Bible to any other purpose, than to enable them to blaspheme God in his own stile. If these men may be said at all to converse with God, it is in the same manner, that the Pharisees did with our Saviour, with the insidious design of *entangling him in his talk*, *Matth.* 22. And sure the more time is thus spent, the worse.

10. PROPORTIONABLY to this they acquit themselves of the *other* parts of this Duty; that *Time* which they should bestow either in preventing or curing their spiritual Maladies, they lay out wholly in contracting or increasing them. They have made a most strict league with the Flesh, and like faithful Confederates they omit no endeavour to strengthen its Party, to supply it with fresh forces, the expence of the *whole day* is managed wholly in order to that end. Thus that they may be sure to keep their Lust high and vigorous, they give it a nourishing breakfast of Sloth in the morning, a full meal of gluttony at noon, besides multitudes of collations in obscene Discourse and Fancies, all the day: and with these Auxiliaries, it need not doubt to maintain the Field against poor macerated Chastity. So again, lest Sobri-

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ty should happen to surprise them, and gain but the honour of one Day, how vigilant are they to give it the first assault? Scarce a day that they draw not up in *Batalia* against it, and seldom miss giving it a total Rout; and if Sleep like a Mist befriend it to steal upon them in the morning again, yet that little success is but a preparation to a more signal Defeat in the afternoon, which is with many, a time allotted wholly to these skirmishes; perhaps the chase followed all night, nay, pursued so far by some, till an habitual Sottishness save them the labour of these Quotidian Combats. Nor is their Pride so affronted, as to be forgot in the distribution of their Time, a good scantling of it is cut out to its use; some in contriving and designing their Cloaths, and some in putting them on; some in admiring themselves, and some in projecting to be admired by others; some in hearing flatteries, and more in reflecting and ruminating upon them.

11. AS for those broken parcels of *Time*, which are not thus devoted to these or some other set and solemn Sensualities, they are gleaned up by Sports and unsignificant pastimes: nay, even some who abstain from the former, do yet so wholly abandon themselves to the latter, that their lives become utterly unprofitable. Under this number I have no intention to include all who allow themselves Recreations; I know some divertisement is so necessary both to the Body and Mind of a man, that if it keep within mo-

derate bounds, it is but a juſt debt to himſelf, and cannot fall under any ill character: but that which is reprehenſible in this matter, is the exceſs and inordinacy of it, the making that a buſineſs, which ſhould be but a diverſion. And this we ſee too uſual with many, who abſurdly ſtretch this priviledge of their *Gentility*, even till it break; purſue their ſports of Hawking and Hunting, *&c.* ſo vehemently and aſſiduouſly, that ere they are aware, they adopt theſe their Callings; never conſidering that a Faulconer or Huntſman is indeed as mean a Vocation, as thoſe they moſt deſpiſe. But whatever other paſtimes of this nature any man ſuffers to uſurp his time, he does in it extreamly reproach himſelf, tacitely confeſſes, that he is unfit for generous and manly imployments, and calls himſelf Child, while he thus trifles and plays away his days.

12. I KNOW not whether I may rank the great and *deep Gameſters* in this File; for though the nature of their imployment belong to it, yet there are ſuch conſiderable ruinous effects of it, as ſeem to place it in the number of more ſerious Ills. And indeed, though Cuſtom hath called it Play, yet the many anxious fears and uneaſie Commotions which uſually attend it, evince the great impropriety of the Title, and would more reaſonably have given it a name of the direct contrary importance. But as feigned names are commonly an art of concealing perſons, ſo this Trade aſſumes the ſtile of Divertiſement, in-

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deed to disguise its true original, which undoubtedly is Covetousness. For what imaginable cause can there be assigned, besides the desire of Wining, that should make men venture what they are so unwilling to lose? It is certain, he that plays for a Piece, has as much of the divertive part, as he that stakes a thousand, and were that all were designed, men need not, and certainly would not so profusely over-buy what offers itself at so much a cheaper rate. I know this is a motive men think too sordid to own, but would God they would once learn (in this better sence) to revere themselves as well as others, and despise to be prevailed on by what they are ashamed to avow. But the event ordinarily speaks it as great a Folly, as Meanness, of which there are too many sad instances in the shipwrackt Fortunes of these Adventurers. And indeed there is nothing wonderful in it, but that men will be so mad as to run the hazard. For that being supposed, it is not at all strange to see them sink under it. For a man has here to deal not with Chance alone (which yet were but a tickle bottom to imbark in) but with such combinations of Deceit, that even good fortune it self will not secure him: so that he that has not learnt to Plough with the same Heifer, is like to make but sad Husbandry of it. And even those that have, if they happen to get some few good Crops, yet they quite wear out the soil with them, forfeit that Reputation with all considering men, which should let them in to farther opportunities, and

leave themſelves to live not ſo much upon their own Wits, as other mens Follies. It is true indeed, that hath in theſe latter days proved a pretty large *Common* to graze on, and ſome have ſeemed to thrive well upon it; but generally ſuch Cattle meet at laſt with a pinching Winter, which leaves them as bare and meagre, as ever. In ſhort, Cheating has uſually a reflexed efficacy, and deceives none more than thoſe that uſe it: yet ſuch a ſtroke hath it now got in Gaming, that in moſt Companies it leaves men only this miſerable choice, Whether they will be active or paſſive in it. Which methinks ſhould be enough to awake men, as immoderate Tyrannies uſe to do, to vindicate their Liberties, and reduce Gaming from this exorbitancy to its Primitive uſe, make it ceaſe to be a Trade, and become a Recreation; and that too bounded within ſuch juſt limits, that it may not incroach on thoſe hours which ſhould be deſtined to greater concernments. But as it is between this and the reſt, either Impertinences or Vices, all their time is ſo pre-ingaged and fore-ſtalled, that their moſt important intereſt is left forlorn and neglected; they have as little Leiſure as Will to conſider the poor Soul, or ſcarce to remember that they carry any ſuch trifle about them.

13. AND now they that thus forget God and themſelves, no wonder if they afford little conſideration to their brethren. They will not be guilty of ſuch an *Indecorum*, or deny the Body of ſin its exact ſymmetry, by making this part unpro-

unproportionable to the reſt: and therefore they either allow no part of *their time* to *others*, or do it to ſuch inverted perverſe purpoſes, as makes the payment worſe than robbery. Thus many beſtow *Viſits* on others, not out of any purpoſe of kindneſs, but either to trifle away their own time, or to make obſervations, what they can ſpy ridiculous to entertain their laughter. A myſtery the *London*-viſitants are generally well read in, who have put this buſineſs long ſince into a ſetled courſe; ſo that the diſcoveries of one Viſit ſets them in a ſtock of defaming, backbiting diſcourſe for the next, and ſo ſucceſſively *ad infinitum*. So again, many who call themſelves *Gentlemen*, much to the reproach of that title, if they can find out a *young Heir* of much wealth and little prudence, how officious, how diligent are they in attending him? watching him as gladly as a Vulture does the fall of a Carcaſs, till they find an advantage to rook him at Play, entangle him in Suretiſhip, or perhaps betray him to ſome mean and unequal Match. So if they hear but of a *beautiful Woman*, what contrivances, what deſigns do they lay, firſt to ſee, and then to corrupt her; make it a buſineſs to themſelves, as well as a trade to their agents and factors, to ſpring ſuch game? And upon ſuch occaſions as theſe can liberally ſacrifice their *Time*, of which when any Charitable office would borrow from them but ſome few minutes, they are then ſuch buſie perſons, they can by no means afford it. A *Nabals* blunt and *churliſh refuſal*, or at beſt a

Felix's put off to *a convenient season*, are the usual returns to such motions. But to anticipate the Proposal, to go in quest of such Opportunities, looks with them like a piece of *Knight-errantry*, has so little of their practice, that it scarce escapes their scorn.

14. AND now what a heavy Bill of Indictment is like one day to be brought in against them, when God, their Souls, and their Neighbours shall all joyn in the Charge! Oh that they would seasonably consider how sadly obnoxious they are to it, and that condemnation which will inevitably follow it; that so they may, according to Christs counsel, *Mat.* 5. 25. *agree with these adversaries while they are in the way*, and by yielding to each of them for the future a just portion of their *time*, compound the business, stop the Process against them. That they would remember, that of all their prodigalities, this of their Time is the most desperate, such as is most impossible to redeem, and yet that wherein they are of all others the deepliest concerned. And this they would certainly be convinced of, if their Aery fancies could but so condense into Earth, as to bring them into any acquaintance with their Beds of dust, give them some foretaste of their Dying terrors: for let them but sadly think what they would then give for some few of those Days they now study to fling away, and they cannot chuse but infer the necessity of being better Husbands.

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We read in Scripture of the Demoniacks *dwelling among the Tombs*: but the Devil has ſure changed that habitation; for thoſe whom he now poſſeſſes he permits not to converſe at all there, as knowing it is the propereſt preparative to his diſpoſſeſſion. And doubtleſs it would be the moſt powerful *Exorciſm*, as of all others, ſo of this Evil ſpirit (this filching Devil, that thus ſteals from men their precious hours) often to deſcend into the Vault or *Charnel-houſe*, and by ſerious conſideration how ſhort their *Time* is, to inforce upon themſelves a care of redeeming it.

15. NOR need they fear, that to *redeem their Time*, they muſt ſell their Pleaſures, give up themſelves to a joyleſs ſtate of life. For though it is true they muſt reſign their counterfeit, they ſhall have real Delights in exchange; they muſt part with their Glaſs, but ſhall have Gold inſtead of it. And as none but a rude *Indian* will repine at that bargain in the Literal, ſo none but a ruder Chriſtian can diſlike it in the Moral ſence. For in the firſt place, he that imploys his *time* in converſing with God, is not only more honourably and more profitably, but alſo more pleaſantly buſied than he can poſſibly be any other way. We all ſay, *That God is the Centre of Felicity*: but he gives himſelf the lie, that does not withal confeſs, that the cloſer acquaintance we have with him, the nearer approach we make to happineſs. For whoever believed the Sun

Sun to be the Fountain of heat, and yet feared to freez by drawing near its Rays? Indeed none but the down-right Atheist can with any tolerable Logick, dispute the pleasantness of this Duty. For can any whose Faith has set up a God, suffer their fancies to dress him like a Fiend? Put on him such unlovely shapes, as may beget aversion, deter them from approaching to him? Can they call him a Deity, to whom they will not attribute so much as they will to every ingenuous man, the honour of being good Company? This is to be not only prophane, but absurd. And if there be any of so short Discourse, I suppose him uncapable of conviction by Argument: the common Proverb hath assigned him his Teacher, *viz. Experience.* Let him by frequent, yet reverent Addresses to God, grow into some familiarity with him, bring himself within distance of receiving his refreshing Influences, and then he will discover how very unkind he hath been to himself in thus long holding off. In humane Conversations we use not to find the gust and relish of them, till we arrive to some degree of Freedom: they that converse as strangers, are under constraints and uneasiness. And certainly the main cause of that disgust men have to this Spiritual entercourse, is their unaccustomedness to it. They address to God perfectly as strangers, now and then pay him a slight Visit, as it were by way of formality and complement; and then no wonder if it be neither satisfactory to God nor themselves. But then 'tis sure great injustice to defame

fame that as unpleasant, which becomes so only by their own ill managery; to say there is no water in the Well, only because they neglect to provide a Bucket for the drawing of it up.

16. IN the next place 'tis sure, their *Souls* mean them no malice, in exacting part of their *Time*. For first, what they bestow in improving and exalting their *Understandings*, does not only bring them in vast advantages in the end, but affords them also very fair accommodations by the way. Learning yields such variety of agreeable entertainments, that like the *Manna in the Wilderness* it adapts itself to every mans taste, he that likes not one sort may fit himself with another; and sure he must have a strangely vitiated palat, to whom none of them will relish. I can scarce think Nature has produced any thing so distempered; but men take up general and implicite prejudices, and will look on Books in no other notion but as Taskmasters, whereas if they would but consider them as Companions, they could not miss of one kind or other, to find a pleasant conversation among them.

17. AS for that portion of their *Time* which is spent in attendance on the yet more spiritual part of them, 'tis rather a gift than a robbery, to help them to such a way of expence. Ingenuous men think it a prize when they meet an opportunity to rescue from the sullage of time any thing that carries the stamp of ancient worth and Nobility. But this is a piece of the greatest Antiquity, of the noblest, yea divinest Impress. How

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can mens hours be better laid out, than in reſtoring it to its primitive luſtre, in wiping off that ſoil wherewith the ſteam of boiling paſſions hath obſcur'd it, and by disburdening it of thoſe loads of noxious humours under which it labours, like good Phyſicians, recover it from a languiſhing, infirm, to a vigorous athletique habit? And ſure the ſatisfaction of this muſt far exceed all other entertainments. Indeed that which is uſually taken up inſtead of it, can with no juſtice pretend to any tolerable complacency. No man envies his felicity, but contemns his ſordid and abject ſpirit, that picks out the baſeſt and unworthieſt company: And ſhall it here paſs for pleaſure to conſort only with the plebeian part of himſelf, thoſe ſenſual Appetites, which are the Common people of this Little world, to ſpend all his time in Treating and Careſſing of theſe, and in the interim let the Soul, which is of ſo noble an extraction, ſo excellent endowments, ſtand by neglected, nay be trodden to death in the croud of this vulgar rabble? Certainly this is a Tragedy, that no man could ſee upon the Stage without indignation: yet God knows, this is it men daily act over with applauſe to themſelves. Would God they would once ſhift the Scene, and let the oppreſt Soul have its ſeaſon of triumphing: doubtleſs they would find it more pleaſant to ſhare in its Conqueſts than in its ruine. We read indeed of ſome Nations that have by *the rites* of a barbarous religion been forced to make *Humane ſacrifices*: yet we find

find not that they had ſo ſlaughtered Humanity it ſelf, as to make it matter of delight. And has our Civility ſo far outdone their Barbariſm, that it ſhall be pleaſure to do that in ſpight of our Religion, which they did in obedience to theirs? To butcher the Man within us, and leave nothing but our outward Form and inward Guilt to difference us from Beaſts? He that diſclaims this, muſt neceſſarily confeſs the pleaſure lies on the other ſide, in reſcuing the Spirit from the uſurpations, yea tyranny of the Fleſh; and conſequently, that the Time he thus beſtows is not loſt, but improved to his own greateſt preſent, as well as future advantages.

18. THE like may (in the laſt place) be ſaid of that part of it which is laid out to the benefit of others, which is that which brings us to taſte the moſt delicious of humane delights: the pleaſure of Obliging being of all thoſe the moſt raviſhing and tranſporting. And for this we need not the verdict of Chriſtianity: the Philoſopher atteſts it as well as the Divine. Nay it is ſo received a truth, that ſcarce any man will avow ſo much ill nature as to reſiſt it in diſcourſe, how much ſoever his practice diſowns it. Indeed this is a pleaſure of ſo exalted, ſo quinteſſential a kind, that what *Herod*'s Auditors ſaid in flattery of his Oration, we may ſay in truth of this, 'Tis the delight rather of *a God*, than *a man*. That Soveraign Being, though he were eternally happy in himſelf, yet as if he had wanted

wanted of his compleat felicity, whileſt he enjoy'd it alone, was pleaſed rather to create, than want objects of his goodneſs. And a pleaſure to which God himſelf has given ſuch an atteſtation, as to make a World in order to it, ſure cannot, without the moſt impious contradiction of his choice, be deſpiſed by man. And certainly 'tis none of the leaſt of thoſe benefits he hath vouchſafed our nature, that he hath given us a capacity of it, by affording us thoſe powers by which we may advantage and oblige one another; ſo pointing us out a courſe, whereby we may not only innocently, but ſucceſsfully entertain *Lucifers* deſign, of being *like the moſt High*. It really makes Men what the Heathens vainly fancied their *Heroes*, even *Demi-gods*. O that thoſe, who think it Noble to be aſpiring, would thus verifie the opinion, by terminating all their wiſhes and endeavours in this one Generous Ambition! and then 'tis ſure they would not need to be told the happineſs of this ſo deifying an imployment.

SECT.

SECT. VII.

Of the Fourth Advantage, that of his Authority.

1. IN the fourth place we are to conſider the *Gentleman*'s advantage, in reſpect of his *Authority* over thoſe that relate to, or depend on him. And this, if rightly managed, is of excellent uſe, though as capable of being perverted, as any of the former. He who has ſecular ties upon men, may often, by thoſe cords which bind their worldly intereſt, draw them to a conſideration of their ſpiritual. A *Tenant* who thinks his livelihood concerned in the good Will of his Landlord, A Penſioner whoſe ſubſiſtence reſts upon the bounty of his Patron, will ſtrive to model themſelves to ſuch a form, as may beſt ſuit the inclinations of the perſon they deſire to endear: they are uſually Wax to him, that are Flint to others. But then, as variety of Seals make differing Impreſſions, ſo this flexibleneſs of theirs may be either abuſed to ill, or improved to good: this Wax may receive the Image of a Beaſt or an Angel. It is therefore the duty of thoſe who are poſſeſt of this advantage, to uſe it to the impreſſing not of Vice, but Vertue; to contrive how they may moſt effectually diſcountenance the one, and encourage the other.

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And this they may doubtleſs have frequent opportunites of, towards either of thoſe relations formentioned.

2. BUT to none ſo often as to their *Domeſticks* and Menial ſervants. Theſe are always ſo much in their road, that they ſeem to be marked out by God as their moſt peculiar Province. Every Maſter has ſo much of the Prophet, that he is *ſet as a Watchman, Ezek.* 3. 17. over his Family, and ought as jealouſly to obſerve the approach of any Vice towards it, as a Centinel does that of an Enemy. 'Tis a very pernicious error for men to think themſelves no otherways concerned in their Servants, than they are in their Horſes or Oxen, to look upon them only as another ſpecies of Working-cattle, and ſo they do their buſineſs care not how arrant Brutes they be. Whereas they ſhould remember, that they with themſelves are common-ſervants to the one Great Maſter, and that the ſubordination of the one to the other is but the wiſe *Oeconomy* of their Lord, who has (as in great Families we ſee it uſual) conſtituted the one as Stewards or ſupervifors, to regulate the reſt: and then 'twill appear a piece of enormous unfaithfulneſs to neglect this charge. To avoid which guilt, it will concern *Gentlemen* to have a ſedulous care over thoſe that are thus intruſted to them, to make ſtrict inſpections into the manners of their ſervants, and accordingly to apply inſtructions, and admonitions, reproofs, or incouragements. And that they may not tranſcribe *Pharaohs Tyranny of exacting*

exacting brick without straw, require the superstructure of Christian lives, where there wants the necessary foundation of Christian knowledge, they must provide that none under their charge be destitnte of the means of laying that groundwork, of knowing so much of Religion as may bring them into an acquaintaince with their duty. But to give life to all these endeavours 'tis indispensably necessary for them to avow such a Love to piety and vertue, and such a Detestation of the contrary, that their servants may see, that there is but one way of approving themselves both to their earthly and heavenly Master.

3. IF it be here Objected, That it is but a counterfeit vertue, which derives it self from the care of pleasing men, and so that this is but to teach them to convert prophaneness to hypocrisie: I must yield so far as to confess, that where that continues the final motive, it will never avail any man. But as God often uses temporal and outward occurrencies, to produce inward and spiritual effects, so it may here happen, that those whose first approaches to Goodness were mercenary, and out of compliance to others, may by coming within view of it discern it so amiable, that they may after love it for its self. And indeed considering the rude ignorance usual among the vulgar, 'tis scarce imaginable they should imbrace it upon the bare strength of speculation, and therefore must be allowed secular invitations, as baits to allure them. As for those that never advance higher than the meer *Form of Godliness,*

what weight ſoever it may add to their own doom, yet perhaps that may juſtly be accounted leſs miſchievous to the world, than the contrary extreme; Hypocriſie being a ſin that cannot well ſet up for *Proſelytes*, becauſe it never owns itſelf of a diſtinct party from true Piety. And 'tis not impoſſible, that the example of a feigned Chriſtian, may teach others to ſurmount their copy, and be that in ſincerity, which he is but in appearance: whereas open Vice pretends to no ſuch poſſibility, breaths nothing but contagion, and like a peſt infects communities. We have therefore reaſon to conclude, that if this care were generally taken, 'twere a ſervice not only to God, but the Common-wealth, which has not more unprofitable, nay noxious burdens lying on her from any rank of men, than from lewd and idle Servants; who uſing their places only as a ſhelter for their ſloth and licentiouſneſs, when that *Gourd withers*, know not whither to retire, but uſually either live Beggars, or die Thieves: whereas if *Gentlemens families* were ſo ordered, as to become Seminaries of Induſtry and Sobriety, the number of them is ſo great, that they might be able to ſend out many Colonies of uſeful and civil perſons.

4. THERE is alſo another ſort of *Relative*, viz. *a Friend*: over whom though they have not that Authority, which ſprings from this ſervile ſtock of hopes & fears, yet they have one of a much more noble deſcent, and more vigorous efficacy. Friendſhip has a key to the heart, which it may uſe not

not only to let it self into its secrets, but also to introduce its own conceptions, sentiments, and inclinations; it so mixes with the mind, that it may insensibly convey into it any *Idæa*. Now to use this intimacy to the bringing in any thing base and unworthy, is the vilest treachery, such as is but imperfectly represented by the treason of him, who requites his friends hospitality, by bringing in Thieves or Murderers upon him. A guilt so vehemently to be abhorred, that none is to think himself at a sufficient and just distance from it, but he that industriously pursues the direct contrary; he therefore that hath a *Friend*, ought studiously to contrive how he may most promote his advantages, and those not only his outward and secular, but also (yea principally) his inward and spiritual. This is the only sense wherein 'tis lawful to have designs upon him, and in this he is not only licensed, but obliged to have so. He must here use all friendly stratagems to recommend and endear vertue to him, make his kindness the vehicle, wherein the more gratefully to administer whatever is most wholsome, even reproofs, when they appear so; and yet by taking his own turn in being the Patient, evince, that 'tis no assuming humour, that creates him a Physician. If friendships were thus managed, it would be indeed a most sacred relation, such as would be above the violations of those petty trivial distastes, which now adays dissolve them. Hearts that are tyed together with these consecrated bands, are like *Man* and *Wife* joyned toge-

ther inſeparably by God, and much for the ſame end of propagation; only herein as far ſuperior to their pattern, as the mind is to the body, the divine excellencies of a Saint to the natural compoſition of a man. We may reaſonably believe they were Friendſhips of this making, that firſt brought that name into ſo much veneration, and were they again reduced to this, no *Encomiums* could be too laviſh for them. Such a reducement were a work well worthy the ſpirit and ingenuity of *Gentlemen*: who ſince they generally profeſs much reverence to the word, 'tis pity they ſhould caſt away their adorations on an empty ſhrine. The Heathens had *Incantations* to recal their diſpleaſed Deities into their forſaken Images. I wiſh they would alſo try ſome holy *Magick* to bring back ſomewhat of the primitive divine ſpirit, to animate this now liveleſs trunk: that they who juſtly think it an *ungentile* reproachful thing, not to have ſome body whom they call Friend, may think it much more ſo, not to pay all the real kindneſs due to that appellation.

5. HAVING thus far given an account what are the proper and juſt imployments of this Authority over their ſeveral *Relations*, our method now requires us to reflect a little on their *Practice*, and that in the moſt we ſhall find as far ſwerving from the rule in this particular, as any of the former. So far, alas, are *Gentlemen* from making their Power inſtrumental to the infuſing good, that there is nothing more ordinary than to ſee them diſpoſe it to the direct contrary. The

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ſcorn and contempt they publickly caſt upon all piety and vertue, teaches their Dependents how dead a trade that is like to prove to them. And then 'tis very improbable that Godlineſs ſhall with them caſt the ſcales againſt Gain. He that aims to get an Exhibition, or any thing proportionable, will ſoon diſcern his way lies in a quite oppoſite road. He muſt find out what Vice of the *Gentleman* he may be moſt ſerviceable to. Sometimes he muſt purvey for his Luſt, ſometimes for his Intemperance; and even when he has cloyed thoſe groſſer appetites, yet his Pride will always remain inſatiable. He muſt ſtill provide air for that *Camelion*, lay out his whole breath in flatteries (a more helliſh wind than any the *Laplanders* ſell.) 'Tis this enſhrining his *Diana* which is the *craft* by which he expects his *wealth*: and therefore whatever other office he execute by ſtarts, a *Paraſite* is to be his conſtant trade.

6. IN like manner their *Servants* are diſciplined to be the Miniſters of their Luxuries, and not only to ſerve but tranſcribe them. The Maſter's Vices ſeldom miſs to be taken up by the whole Houſe, as if they were to be the Cognizances and Badges to witneſs to whom they retained. And though for this they might very well truſt to the efficacy of their bare Example, yet as if they could never be ſecure enough of corrupting their Families, they too often add to it Precepts and Rules of Inſtitution. Thus it is one of the Fundamental Laws of their Hoſpitality, *That no*

ſtranger be ſent Sober away. So that their Houſes may well paſs for *inchanted Caſtles*; no Man ſcarce that comes into them, being able to guide himſelf out. They keep, as it were, ſolemn *Juſts* and *Turnements* of Debauchery, to challenge all comers, and have variety of Champions to deal with Combatants of all ranks. In ſhort, *Gentlemens Families* are become ſuch perfect Academies of Licentiouſneſs, that the moſt innocent Puny will there in a very ſhort time become proficient. And this God knows is the ordinary improvement they make of their Authority; as if they affected to outbid the tyranny of the *Turk*, in ſending a Halter to his Vaſſals, and making them their own Executioners; or thought it a diſparagement to their Qualities, to go to Hell without an honourable Retinue.

7. AS for the other ſort of power, that which they have over their *Friends* and intimates, 'tis not diſcernible that they manage that better. Who almoſt is there, that ſeems at all to advert to the Eſſential part of Friendſhip? What a Rarity, I had almoſt ſaid a Prodigy is it, to find (even amongſt thoſe that profeſs the greateſt dearneſs) any that hath either the Courage to give, or the Humility to receive an Admonition? But in ſtead of thoſe *wounds of a Friend*, *Prov.*27. 6. there is nothing more common among them, than *the kiſſes of an Enemy*, ſuch mutual ſoothing in ill, as renders it inveterate and incurable; and like *Joab* to *Amaſa*, 2 *Sam.*20. 10. *ſheds out the bowels*, when it pretends to *kiſs*. Nay, as if it were

were not sufficient for them to nourish those Vices they find already planted, they sow new Seeds, communicate their personal ones to each other, as if the community of Friendship obliged them mutually to diffuse their poisons. Were many of the closest intimacies now adays ransacked to the bottom, it is to be feared this would be found the basis and ground-work of them. He that hath advanced above the beaten road, arrived to the more elevated mysterious parts of wickedness, (*The depths of Satan, as they speak, Rev.* 2-24.) would lose much of the gust, if he should not get some Confident, to whom at once to boast, and propagate his Proficiency. Thus sacrilegiously is this venerable relation of Friendship prophaned, by being prostituted to the vilest and most detestable purposes; and by this accursed abuse suffers the saddest *Metamorphosis*, becomes only a Confederacy in sin, a Combination and League against what they account the common Enemies, God and Vertue.

8. THESE are such wretched perversions of their power, that one would guess it were some great and very considerable weight of *present Interest*, that should thus byas and distort them. But when that is examin'd, 'twill be found to lie wholly on the other side. The former Section gave us occasion to discern how transporting a delight it is, to be the Instruments of any good to others. But as there is no good can bear proportion with that which is done to the Soul, so certainly to be an Agent in that, must far transcend

the pleasure of all other Benefactions. He that so dispenses his Bounty, as to engage Men to Vertue by it, is indeed the magnificent Person, outvies the most profuse Donations of the greatest Potentates. They can give but some little parcels of Earth, he gives Heaven, and like a mighty Monarch hath Kings to do him homage. So he that by well ordering his Family, makes his Servants to be God's, does not only oblige the Common-wealth, but is as it were a Patriot even to Heaven it self; provides it with Inhabitants, and helps to secure it from that emptiness and depopulation, wherewith the general wickedness of men seems to threaten it. And then in relation to such his Servants, he is of all other Masters the most bountiful and obliging: they provide perhaps some petty Annuities, he gives a state of Inheritance, nay of Eternity.

9. THIS is a vast Munificence, yet that which the arranteſt Worldling can have no temptation to grudge. A man may thus without a Riddle give much, yet part with nothing, nay, acquire that very thing to himself, which he dispenses to others. So that here is no place for the usual (though unjust) Objection of *impoverishing ones self*, which is that alone which often deads the relish, or diverts the attempt of other Liberalities. And therefore this sort which is rescued from that one possible allay, must certainly yield the most vigorous and unmixt Pleasure: it being sure, that Bounty has in it self so much of agreement with Humane Nature, as will inevitably

vitably produce Complacence and Delight, where it is not so interrupted or allayed.

10. I MIGHT here add *ex abundanti*, that there is likewise a *secular Profit* attending it. For if *Gentlemen* had their Dependents truly conscientious, they would be of very much more use to them. They might employ them securely, and need no other Spies upon them but their own Consciences. 'Twould not then be, so many Servants, so many Thieves and Harpies, but so many Factors and Traffickers for the Masters advantages. So that here again their own interest engages them to this Care: though I confess 'tis to be wished, that the former more ingenuous Motive may be so prevalent, as to supersede all use of this; it being very unreasonable that God should need Auxiliaries from *Mammon*. Yet as once the *Israelites borrowed of the Ægyptians*, so it may not be amiss to make this Inferiour consideration a step to the other more Noble: that even they who have yet no gust of that more Heroick Pleasure, may on the intuition of this Worldly advantage, endeavour to improve their Authority to the Spiritual good of all that belong to them.

11. BUT from no part of this Performance may they reap so rich satisfaction, as from that which is exercised towards a *Friend*. For as their concernment is nearer in him, than in the former more distant Relations, so the Pleasure of doing good to him, must proportionably encrease; as that heat is most intense which is conveyed by the

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neareſt Reflection. He who ſo maintains his Vital ſtation in the great Body, as to ſympathize with every Member of it, muſt yet neceſſarily have the moſt acute ſenſe of what befals thoſe parts, to which he is moſt immediately conjoyned. But there is no ſtricter Union upon Earth, than that of a Vertuous *Friendſhip*; and then what can be more ſatisfactory, than to preſerve or advance the Health of that, whoſe Maladies himſelf is ſure to feel, to improve and benefit that perſon, who is thus become a part of him? Perſons of quality love to deck and imbelliſh the place where they inhabit, abhor to dwell in a Stie or Dungeon: but friends dwell in each other; and therefore cannot but be delighted in beautifying and adorning thoſe Minds they have thus choſen to live in, in purging them from all foulneſs and pollutions, and rendring them as pure and immaculate; nay, as ſplendid and illuſtrious, as is poſſible. Certainly, there is nothing upon Earth more raviſhing, than a *Friendſhip* thus entertained. 'Tis ſome Anticipation of Heaven, where thoſe lines of Love which ſtretch themſelves to every part of the Circumference, do all meet in God as their Centre. It is indeed that which ſurmounts the poſſibility of an exact deſcription, and reſerves its full diſcovery to be the prize of Experience. Let it be tried, and then I doubt not, but he that hath made the Experiment, will readily atteſt the pleaſure of thus employing this part alſo of his Authority.

SECT.

SECT. VIII.

Of the Laſt Advantage, that of Reputation.

1. THE laſt advantage is that of *Reputation* and *Eſteem*: which is generally preſumed the due of Perſons of Quality, unleſs where ſome perſonal unworthineſs hath cut off the Entail, and forfeited that right. And though theſe days have taught the Vulgar to defalk much of that reſpect which former Ages paid to Superiors of all ſorts; yet I cannot think the *Levelling Principle* has ſo univerſally diffuſed itſelf, as totally to raſe out all Impreſſions of Reverence towards them: ſo that there ſtill remains ſomewhat of this Talent for them to negotiate with. It will be their part ſo to manage and diſpoſe it, as to bring in profit to their Lord, by making it alſo an Engine to draw men to piety and vertue.

2. THIS they may ſometime do by *Counſel*; to the ſucceſs whereof there is nothing more contributive than an eſteem of the Adviſer, moſt men being rather apt to conſider who ſpeaks, than what is ſpoken. And therefore perſons, whoſe Quality and Education have prepoſſeſt them with an opinion of their Wiſdom, have a great advantage towards the working on them. And this

this it will befit them to make diligent use of, by seasonable advices and exhortations to those whom they shall discern thus prepared for the entertaining of them, to take all prudent occasions to recommend *Christian Practice* to them, and by pulling off those disguises which the false measures of the World have put upon Vice and Vertue, to represent them in their true and native shapes, the one the object of horror and detestation, the other of love and delight. 'Tis the want of this discovery, that has given Impiety so free a range: it has drest itself up in a counterfeit splendour, false Gems and Tinsel-gaudery; and in this glittering appearance it marches on triumphantly, receives acclamations, yea, and Obeisance too, nay commands not only the knees (as every prosperous Usurper can do) but even the hearts of men. And will none have so much Charity, so much Zeal for publick Concern, as to uncloak this Impostor, and shew the dazled World what it is it thus bows to? Perhaps this is lookt on only as the business of Divines; but certainly would *Gentlemen* also set to it, they were like to prove the more prosperous undertakers. What comes only out of the Pulpit, passes for *the foolishness of Preaching*, 1 *Cor.* 1. 21. or for the discourses of those whose Trade it is to inveigh against sin. All their *Thrusts* being of course, and expected, their *Wards* are as well known too; and we daily see Vice approve itself an expert Fencer against them. But the endeavours of these would not

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be liable to those prejudices: a Blow from them would come (like the Revolt of a Confederate) with the advantage of a Surprise. And there is little doubt, but by friendly and familiar Conferences they might many times insinuate that into mens breasts, which the more solemn and Authoritative Exhortations of Ministers often fail of.

3. BUT Counsel will be of little efficacy, if it be not seconded by *Example*. They must therefore look their Lives be such, as may shew they believe themselves, whilst they go about to perswade others. He that shall with never so pressing arguments dehort a man from that Sin, which himself at the next opportunity commits, will never be supposed to have any real ill opinion of it, but rather so passionate a love, that he is jealous any but himself should have its embraces. And then surely this will be so far from averting, that it will excite the appetite of the other to taste of that which he sees is thought so desireable as to be Monopolized.

4. INDEED there is nothing by which they have so universal *an influence*, as their Example. Things that are set in some high and eminet place, do naturally attract mens eyes to them: so that eminency of condition wherein *Gentlemen* are placed, renders their actions more observable. They are like the *City* our Saviour speaks of, *set on an hill*, and have by that advantageous situation the means of making their *light shine farther* than other mens. And there-

therefore it ought to be their constant care, by the bright lustre of their exact and exemplary Conversations, to inlighten the whole sphere wherein they move. Would *Gentlemen* make this their united design, what a happy Constellation of auspicious Stars would they prove, by whose benign Aspect the sterility of Vulgar minds might be cured, and even those Clods be inspirited and rendred capable of excellent productions?

5. FOR what can be more *perswasive* to those of the lower Ranks to embrace Vertue, than to see it made the election of those whom they suppose to have most judgment to discern its value, and so fall not on it blindfold, and who have also all the contrary pleasures of Sin within their reach; nay prostrate at their feet, suing for entertainment, and so are not cast on it by impotence? What a blur and infamy would it cast upon Vice, if it were once banished out of *Gentile* company? And how fair a step would it be towards its exclusion out of all? We see what a natural aspiring the lower sort have to approach to the condition of their Betters. And though that being now aimed only at their Pomps and Greatness, be no commendable temper, yet sure it were much in the power of those emulated persons to make it so. For would they so order the matter, that their Vertue should out-shine all their outward splendors, that it should become the character and distinctive note of a *Gentleman*, to be eminently good, this were a way to consecrate even Ambition itself, by making it an engine

gine not to rack and torture men, as common ambitions do, but to advance them to all vertuous industry.

6. HE that desired to ennoble his Family, would then begin at his Mind, cast out thence all base and degenerous Inclinations, and make himself a *Gentleman* without help of Heraldry. Thus haply might they deceive men into Piety, and make those Emulations, whose first rise was meerly from earth, a ladder wherewith to scale Heaven. And how noble, how excellent a charity is this, and yet of all others the cheapest, it having that Proverbial property of Charity, *To begin at home!* The being good, is primarily a kindness to themselves, and to others only by way of result, and propagation, and easie consequence. How unchristian, unmanly, yea unskilful too will it then be, to deny this benefaction, which has that very argument on its side, which is opposed to other kinds of Liberalities? That fear of lessening a mans self, which in those contracts and shuts up the bowels, is here in all reason to enlarge and dilate them: for in this case men cannot deny, without their own greatest injury, and diminution. And sure 'twould justly pass for a prodigy both of malice and folly, for one so to avert the benefiting another, as to incur the greatest damage to himself in avoiding it.

7. BUT alas, it is not only Charity either to others or themselves, which exacts of them thus to promote Piety among men. They have brought

brought themselves under another more constraining obligation, I mean that of *Justice*, particularly the justice of *Restitution*: for 'tis too visible they have been deeply accessary to its decay. So far have they been from advising and exciting men to good, that I fear their perswasive faculties have generally been employed to a quite distant purpose. There are few or none, that by their own pious endeavours do at all abate the need of the Priests exhortations; but many that do evacuate their efficacy, by decrying it as the greatest folly, the most unmanly submission, to yield them any consideration. As for their own Counsels, they are too often in earnest, what *Solomon*'s was by way of Irony, *Eccl.* 11. 9. *Walk in the ways if thine heart and in the sight of thine eyes*, encouraging and animating men to all Sensuality. And if they discern any begin to startle at the course, to entertain but a sober thought of that dismal end to which it leads; he is to be laught out of that *Hypochondriack fit*. taught to look upon it as a spice of Phrensie. The loud noise of roaring Mirth is re-inforced to drown that poor whisper of Conscience, and by the sound as it were of those Trumpets he is incited to turn to his course, as the horse *rusheth into the battel, Jer.* 8. 6. all arts of encouragement used to embolden him to run fearlessly on to Damnation. This is their own known *Recipe*----for all pangs and gripes of Soul. And if it be not of every days practice, 'tis not, that they have any better method of Cure, but such arts

arts of prevention, such means of stupefaction and obduration, that the disease seldom occurs among them.

8. NOR do they omit to back and fortifie this with proportionable *Examples:* which God knows are so many and so efficacious, that like a dismal Cloud they overspread our whole Horizon. They who are by God designed as lights to illuminate all about them, have been the instruments of introducing a more than *Ægyptian* darkness, thereby exemplifying that Aphorism of our Saviours, *Matt. 6. 23. If the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness.*

9. WHAT a deluge of Prophaneness and Impiety at this day overflows this poor Nation, is too visible not only by the direct, but the reflexed beams, those sad Judgments they have brought down upon it. And though there be too many springs which feed this Ocean, yet there will scarce any be found to have more liberally contributed, than the open and scandalous viciousness of the *Gentry.* They who are placed as Stars in our Firmament, if they dart nothing but malignant Influences, what wonder is it, if an universal Pest ensue? 'Tis they that have brought Vice into countenance, made it the mode and fashion of the times, so that people dread the singularity of being innocent, and a man may with less peril of scorn appear in the most superannuated dress, than own the Obsolete qualities of Meekness, Purity, Sobriety, *&c.*

How great and fatal a ſnare this *creditableneſs* of ſin has proved, I fear there are too many thouſands of entangled Souls can witneſs. And on whom can they more properly charge their ruine, than on thoſe who have advanced it to this repute in the world? Mens natural pravity gives them propenſion more than enough to ill; and therefore it hath been the buſineſs of Laws both humane and divine to put a bridle upon thoſe inclinations, by fear and ſhame to reſtrain their inordinacy: but this converts the bridle into a ſpur, when thoſe that ſhould diſcountenance Vice, thus animate and encourage it.

10. FOR what a Temptation is it to the vulgar *to run to all exceſs of Riot*, when they ſee their ſuperiors have beaten the path before them, and are themſelves immerſt in the moſt brutiſh ſenſualities? Which of them will endure to be ſober, when Drunkenneſs ſhall be accounted ſo dignifying a quality, that it may make a Peaſant company for a Lord? When *Gentlemen* are Atheiſtical, Clowns will think themſelves very modeſtly wicked, if they be but prophane. And when they hear their Betters diſcharge loud Volleys of Oaths, they will ſoon find they are as well qualified for that part of greatneſs as the beſt. *Their Tongues* are as much *their own*, *Pſal.* 12. 4. and will be glad that by ſuch an eaſie imployment of them they can be *Gentlemen* ſo good cheap. 'Twere as endleſs as unneceſſary to enumerate the ſeveral ſorts of infection, which the ill

ill examples of great men have diffused. 'Tis too obvious in the moral effects to need any other way of discovery. And I am sure it ought to be matter of the saddest reflection to all who are involved in that guilt; it being a more direful account which they will one day have to make, who have been the Authors of such miserable vastations, turn'd Communities of Men, of Christians, into Herds of Beasts, nay into Legions of Devils.

11. EVERY sin even of the privatest obscurest person carries much of contempt and affront to the Divine Majesty: but great mens vices are of a yet more giantly frame, they proclaim solemn War with Heaven, levy forces, and draw in multitudes of abettors and confederates in their hostilities. And God knows this kind of Un-evangelical *violence* the *kingdom of Heaven daily suffers.* Oh that the Chieftains and Leaders of these unhappy troops, would at last think fit to sound a retreat; that they would, in pity if not to themselves, yet to their seduced followers, cease thus desperately to rush on upon the mouth of the Canon, the Jaws of Hell! And not only so, but that they would also endeavour to bring them into some terms of accord with that omnipotent Enemy they have provoked; by their own penitent and reformed lives teach them the postures of humility and submission, as they have formerly done that of defiance! This certainly is that to which common equity obliges them, reparation of injuries being

confeſſedly an indiſpenſable part of juſtice. And certainly there can no injury exceed, nay equal this of betraying men to eternal ruine: and conſequently nothing leſs than the utmoſt induſtry to repair it can be any competent expiation. God grant all thoſe, whoſe guilt gives them a peculiar title to this admonition, may own their right to it by a particular and ſerious application, ſuch as may for the future engage them to the moſt zealous endeavour of reforming not only themſelves, but others, for reſcuing their reputation from that foulest blot, of being an agent for Satan, and advancing it to that higheſt dignity of being ſerviceable to God.

12. BUT there is little hope they will rightly conſider the uſe, who are ſo utterly miſtaken in the nature of true reputation. A *man of Honour* is now underſtood only to be one that can ſtart and maintain a Quarrel, that for every the triflingeſt injury expects like *Lamech*, *Gen.*4.24. to be *avenged ſeventy and ſeven fold*; that deſpiſes the Chriſtian precepts of Meekneſs, Long-ſuffering, and Forgiveneſs, as rudiments of cowardiſe and unmanly puſillanimity, and has no other meaſure of courage and gallantry, but by an utter oppoſition to all thoſe. And whileſt *reputation* is thus hung only at the point of the ſword, 'tis a very fit inſtrument to deſtroy bodies, but ſure not to ſave Souls. We find daily many occaſions to complain of the Tyranny of Cuſtom and Opinion, but ſcarce any where ſo much as in thoſe unjuſt and abſurd Laws they have

have impoſed in this matter: which were they conſideringly weighed would ſurely evince them ſuch contemptible Legiſlators, as would be enough to dethrone and depoſe them from that uſurped Empire they now maintain in the world.

13. TO take only a ſhort and curſory view of them, we ſhall in the firſt place find them to be horribly impious. For what can be more ſo, than thus to tear off thoſe ſignatures of Honour, which God himſelf hath impreſt, and vilifie thoſe whom he hath dignified? God has pronounced that it is the *diſcretion of a man that deferreth his anger, and* it is *his glory to paſs over a tranſgreſſion, Prov.* 19. 11. And again, *He that is ſlow to anger is better than the mighty, and he that ruleth his ſpirit, than he that taketh a City, Prov.* 16. 32. But this new notion of Honour proclaims the quite contrary; he paſſes for a Phlegmatick fool, whoſe bloud boils not at the firſt glimpſe of an Affront; and 'tis Gallantry to offer many Injuries, but ignominious Tameneſs to bear one. It has always been the indiſputable prerogative of *Kings* to be the *Fountains of Honour*; what an impious daring is it then to deveſt him of that priviledge, *by whom Kings reign?* To cancel his Patents, and mark them out as the objects of ſcorn, to whom God gives ſo glorious a teſtimony? Yet thus is it daily done to the men, whom the *King of Kings will honour*; theſe are all the Triumphs theſe *Mordecay*'s muſt expect; an evidence how much worſe they are than *Haman*, that allot

them. Certainly there cannot be an act of greater defiance against the Divine Majesty, than thus to reverse his Decrees. And upon this hostility and opposition against Heaven it is, that all the *private Quarrels*, and Combates on Earth are (as on their foundation) superstructed; so that to initiate a Duellist, his first *Challenge* must be directed against God himself.

14 NOR are these false measures of Honour more opposite to Religion, than Prudence. The glosses the *Sword-men* have put upon the one fundamental Law of *Not bearing an Injury*, have introduced such a multitude of ridiculous Punctilio's, that the next Age will be in danger of receiving the Fable of *Don Quixot* for Authentick History. And I see not with what justice this can laugh at them in him and his Squire *Sancho*, and yet think them serious enough to govern men in their most real and weighty concernments. It would indeed astonish any sober person to consider, what *Chimæra*'s they are, to which men sacrifice all that ought to be dear to them. How many *Duels* have been fought, how many men kill'd, (when neither of the Combatants were so implacable but that they could willingly have compounded the matter) only because they thought point of Honour exacted it, and the declaring it would be inglorious? Certainly the Gallies is a state of perfect liberty, compared with this bondage. And were the Release from those necessarily to infer a subjection to this, were those Slaves obliged thus to become *Gentlemen*,

men, I ſhould ceaſe my wonder why ſo many of them have deſpiſed a manumiſſion. For thus to have a mans Eſtate, his Life, yea Soul too, at the mercy of Popular breath, (not only to be loſt, but loſt by his own act) is a ſlavery beyond all that the moſt abject creature ever groaned under. And yet ſo prodigiouſly abſurd is the World, as to cut this out for the *Benjamin's portion*, make it the eſpecial and peculiar priviledge of *Gentlemen*. They are ſet upon a Theatre, and as the *Gladiators* of old muſt kill one another, only to entertain Spectators. And who would not think *Bedlam* the only Seminary to breed men up for ſuch a Trade? Yet ſo univerſal is this Lunacy, that one may ſuſpect the Inſtitution of that Hoſpital is perverted, that that incloſes only the Sober perſons, whileſt the Frantick run looſe about the World.

15. BUT perhaps the more malicious *Duellers* will think themſelves exempt from this number, becauſe 'tis their own ſatisfaction which they deſign in it: their Enemies bloud will make ſo delicious a Draught for their Revenge, that they gaſp after it, and think it a pleaſure well worthy their purſuit. But ſure theſe differ from the former, not as Wiſe men from Fools, but as a worſe Natured Fool from a better. He that would juſtifie the rationalneſs of any Adventure, muſt prove the Prize at leaſt to equal the worth of that he hazards for it. But who that conſiders he has a Soul, can ſeriouſly ſet it at ſo contemptible a rate? Or what man in his wits,

that believes a Hell, will say the pleasure of a Revenge can countervail those pains? Nay indeed, none can with any pretence put it in ballance with the meer loss of Life. For he that is kill'd (as every man may be that fights) can have no sense of that pleasure, and so becomes uncapable of the compensation, if that were able to make it. Nay, I shall descend yet lower, and with some confidence affirm, that the uneasie consequences even of the victory do quite overwhelm the satisfaction. For this I dare refer my self to any of those who have had the unhappy Triumph of a *Murderer*, and doubt not that if they will speak their experiences, they will tell us that the cry of their Adversaries bloud in their Conscience, did utterly extinguish the relish of it in their Fancy. Or if they were persons who were hardned against all sense of Divine vengeance, yet the fear of Humane was abundantly enough to defeat them of that pleasure they expected, so impossible is it to *gather Grapes of* these *thorns*, to reap any contentment from so unchristian an Attempt. Their Revenge is not compleated without Bloud: and if they have it, it proves a Torrent to carry away that imaginary Delight they projected from it. And then what colour of reason can any man bring, why he should thus *sell his soul for nought*, and become a *Platonick* to Damnation?

16. BUT *Revenge* has two ill-matcht qualities, Blindness and Impetuosity; and so all its darts, though they carry force and venome enough to destroy all about them, yet by being

ill

ill aimed revert mortally on the breaſt whence they were ſhot. Certainly there is not in the world a more prodigious Infatuation, than that which rules in this affair. What can be more ſenſeleſs, than for me, when a man has done me an Injury, to think to wipe off that by expoſing my ſelf to more? When he has given me the Lye, to invite him to give me the Stab too? Did ever any man attempt to make up a breach by widening it? To cloſe his wound by tearing it further? The Phyſicians indeed talk of a method of curing ſome Diſeaſes by *Majoration:* but ſure Injuries are not in the number of thoſe maladies, not capable of that way of remedy. The greater may, 'tis poſſible, overwhelm, but not cure the leſs, as the more moderate Pains become inſenſible by the ſuperveniency of the more acute. Yet I preſume none will applaud his choice, that ſhould call for the Rack to drown the pain of a Cut finger, which yet is no hyperbolical Emblem of this ſort of Revenge.

17. BUT beſides all this, our *modern Gallantry* is treacherous to it ſelf, confutes its own pretenſion, and whileſt it vainly aſſumes the Monopoly of Courage, is indeed the meaneſt Cowardiſe in the World. That by which we uſe to diſcriminate baſe fear from juſt caution, is the formidableneſs of the object feared. No man is reproached for not ſtanding the inundation of the Sea; but to quake at ſtepping over a Gutter, would be a ridiculous timorouſneſs. 'Twould be neither wonder nor ſhame to run from the purſuit

ſuit of a Lion; but to be chaſed by a barking Whelp, is the property of an Hare, not of a Man. And according to this meaſure, what wretched Cowards are our greateſt *Hectors*? For what can be more contemptible than thoſe unjuſt Scorns of men they ſo tremble at? Which if they were ſure to be univerſal, yet what real ill can they do a man, who does not by his own fancy lend them an edge wherewith to wound him? But neither can this be the Caſe, till all both Chriſtianity and Sobriety be quite worn out of the world. For to a Chriſtian, 'tis certain the irreligion of Fighting a Duel would be the moſt infamous thing, and even to a ſober Heathen the folly of it would be ſo too: ſo that he can be in no danger of either of their Reproaches, for declining it. And when theſe are ſet aſide, who is there whoſe cenſure can be at all conſiderable? Yet this ſo pitiful deſpicable thing is it, which ſo terrifies and amazes them. And how ſhall we define Cowardiſe, if this be not it?

18. AND as it has the nature, ſo has it the Fate of it too, which uſually is by fleeing an imaginary danger, to fall into a real. Men fight, that they may not be thought Cowards; and by fighting they do not only become indeed ſo, but alſo ruſh themſelves upon other far more formidable miſchiefs, run from a Scarcrow into a *Precipice*. And now what a Riddle is this thing they call *Gallantry*, which ſo ſtartles at the weakeſt noiſe, yet ſtands undauntedly the ſtroke of a Thunderbolt? They who ſo dread the reproach

of

of vain and impotent men, do yet confidently encounter the anger of the omnipotent God; and if Valour and Fool-hardineſs were not very diſtant things, would confute my whole argument by making it evident, that they dare be damned. Thus by a ſtrange kind of inverted operation their Fear makes them bold: would God that *Antiperiſtaſis* might go on to work, till that Boldneſs have again brought them to fear, I mean that penitential Fear, proper to thoſe who thus deliberately provoke the Divine Majeſty.

19. AND that very *Deliberation* is a circumſtance of ſo great an enhancement, as unmeaſurably heightens the ſin. Sudden acts may be capable of ſome alleviations by the ſurpriſe they make on a mans ſpirit: but contrived and premeditated Crimes can have no milder appearance than of obſtinate Rebellion. And this aggravation can ſcarce ever be wanting to a *Duel*; many hours, if not days intervening between the Deſignment and the Execution. And in that interval 'tis not poſſible for all the Opiate Receipts in Satan's Diſpenſatory to keep the Conſcience ſo drowſie, that it ſhall not ſtartle, but it will undoubtedly repreſent to a man the horror of that he is going about: which is no leſs than the engaging himſelf in a double Murder, his own, and his Adverſaries. For the wilful hazard of both faſtens on him the guilt, though both happen to ſurvive the Combate. But if it be his own fate to fall (as he has much reaſon to expect, who thus puts himſelf out of Gods protection, nay

dares

dares his vengeance) what possible hope can remain for him, who thus dies in that very act of the greatest sin? We are generally apt to think but uncomfortably of those who *make away* themselves: but certainly many of those deserve to be Canonized, in comparison with a man that dies in *Duel*; the Principle of that being often an excessive Fear of God, which sure is less culpable, than a prophane contempt of him. Besides the temptation in that case is usually more violent and impetuous; it being (if not begot, yet) cherisht and fomented by Melancholy, the most untractable and obstinate of all humours: whereas the suggestion to this hath no such Auxiliary to aid it, the original of Quarrels being frequently from too free a Jollity. And lastly, that, of how heinous a kind soever, is yet but a single sin, whereas this, as I said before, involves a twofold guilt. And of how crimson a colour must that soul appear before Gods Tribunal, that is thus double-dyed in Bloud!

20. AND now who can chuse but cry out in the Prophet *Esay*'s stile, *Hear O Heavens, and hearken O Earth!* What strain of wonder and amazement can bear proportion with the desperate madness of men, that can thus knowingly and consideringly rush themselves upon such unspeakable mischiefs? Especially since here they want even that miserable Reserve, which serves to embolden them to other sins, *viz.* the hope of a future repentance. For those that make but the slightest measures of that, can scarce fancy any

any opportunities of it in this case: since to him that dies, there seldom remains any space of interval between his sin and his death, no time for those clouds to gather, those penitential showres to descend, which should wash away his bloud-guiltiness; or if there did, yet what expectation is there he should employ it to any effect? Such presumptuous considerate sins naturally work an obduration in the heart, which nothing but an extraordinary grace can remove; and after such an high and daring provocation, 'tis very reasonable to expect God should withdraw even the lowest degrees, but sure not that he should add higher.

21. THESE Considerations are all of them so obvious, that they naturally suggest themselves. And certainly they are so weighty and pressing, that 'tis a Prodigy to see they should be so universally ineffectual: which can proceed from nothing but the want of close and serious application. Would men dare but to meet single with their own sober thoughts, 'twould certainly supersede all other *Duels*. There remains therefore nothing for me to add, but to invite them to this one Encounter, to beseech them to grapple a-while but with the force of Reason, a Combat of all others the securest, where to be subdued is more glorious than to conquer in any other: and when it has despoiled them of that false courage, which exposes them to such dismal ruines, to permit it to re-inspirit them with a true one, such as may give them daring enough to stand up against

againſt this ſo more than barbarous a cuſtom; to endeavour to baniſh it out of *Chriſtendom*, and ſo take off that Reproach which our profeſſion lies under from ſo impious a practice, which having no other Tenure but Preſcription, there needs nothing but Deſuetude to deſtroy it. Let every man for his own part ſtrictly abſtain from it, and avow the doing ſo, and then by ceaſing to be a Faſhion, it will ceaſe to be at all.

22. BUT the miſery of it is, no man will aſſume to be *leader* in this ſo noble an Enterpriſe, to begin this ſo neceſſary a Reformation: which though it have ſo much more of compliance even to carnal Intereſts, than its contrary, that I doubt not many wiſh it were univerſal; yet till it be ſo, they think 'twill be uncreditable to any particular perſon. But were that the certain event of it, 'tis ſure that reproach ought to be deſpiſed, when it comes in competition with Duty. In this caſe the reſolution of *David* (as great a *Sword-man* as any of them) is moſt proper; *I will yet be more vile than thus*, 2 *Sam.* 6. 22. And certainly a man cannot paſs a more glorious Martyrdom, than to ſuffer ignominy upon ſuch an account. I am ſure 'tis a real ſhame to ſee that men can offer violence to all their deareſt complicated Intereſts, to comply with that unchriſtian cuſtom, yet cannot croſs a ſingle imaginary one, to ſuppreſs it.

23. NAY the truth is, they create Punctilio's in this caſe, by which themſelves will not be govern'd in any other. In a common *Fire* does any

any man ſuſpend his own endeavours, till he ſee the whole Town running to quench the flame? Or if one of theſe popular perſons had been of the *Philiſtims* company, *when the houſe began to fall*, *Jud.* 16.30. would we have ſo dreaded the ſingularity of a ſolitary eſcape, as not to have attempted it, till ſhoals of others had led the way? We have had ſome experience, under what prejudice a *publick Act* falls, that is by its makers precluded from being a preſident. And ſure theſe men do tacitly (yet very intelligibly) accuſe the unreaſonableneſs of this fear, whileſt they confine it to this ſingle inſtance. And methinks 'twere but juſt, they ſhould be required to be conſentaneous to themſelves, and act in other things by the ſame meaſures; which would prove ſo ſharp a penance, as were more likely to reduce them to ſobriety, than all the force of Argument.

24. BUT beſides this ſevere Remedy, there is ſure an *Antidote* againſt this *Malady*, a way to ſeparate the Duty from the Contempt which their fancies have ſo cloſely annext to it: and that is by making their lives ſo uniformly Chriſtian, that it may be evident, 'tis Conſcience, not Fear that works with them. Without this I know indeed no ſecurity from reproach. For to ſee a man, who tramples upon all other commands of God, catch up this, as a Buckler againſt a Challenger, who can be ſo blindly charitable, as to impute this to any thing but Cowardiſe? But when the whole tract of a mans Life is one continued courſe of Obedience, no man will expect he

ſhould

ſhould violate that upon this occaſion. To this may be added a chearful and free expoſing himſelf to all warrantable dangers, when any publick occaſion of hazard is offered: if he then ſhew himſelf daring, 'twill be apparent, that 'tis not the fear of Death, but Sin, which locks up his Sword from private *Duels*. Or when there is no opportunity of this active valour, let him approve his paſſive by a contented, nay joyful ſubmiſſion to any ſuffering, that attends the diſcharge of a good Conſcience: and of this there is little fear (in theſe days eſpecially) to want occaſions. He that does this, will be in no danger to be defamed for declining *Duels*: but on the contrary ſuch an equable piety will extort reverence from all; there being ſuch a venerable amiability in it, that the moſt prophane do even againſt their wills bear it ſome inward reſpect.

25. LET not men therefore pretend the *Fear* of *Reproach*, as an Excuſe, ſince here is ſo ready a *Salvo* to that Objection: but let them by an aſſiduous practice of all other Chriſtian Vertues, render this alſo ſecure to them, and qualifie themſelves for the propagating it to others. And Oh, that we could once ſee all other quarrels amongſt *Gentlemen* converted into this one holy contention, who ſhould be forwardeſt in this Heroick attempt. 'Tis the falſe notion of Honour, that is one of Satan's principal Citadels, like *Zion* to the *Jebuſites*: and the aſſaulting of that, would be an atchievement of ſo much glory, that he that could proſper in it, might juſtly challenge

lenge the dignity which *David* there promiſes, 2 *Sam.* 5. 8. *of being Chief and Captain.* Here then they may lawfully quench their thirſt of Honour, yea and that of Revenge too, by wrecking their utmoſt malice on this their ſo grand Enemy. Let it be remembred how long it hath befooled and cheated the World, and be expoſed to all the ſhames and deteſtation of a diſcovered Impoſtor. Nay let it be brought to a ſolemn Arraignment, thoſe innumerable Murders, of which it has been guilty, charged on it, and proſecuted to death, ſo utterly extinguiſhed, that it may never again appear in the World, whileſt all good men applaud the juſtice, and ſay, *So let all thine enemies periſh, O Lord.*

26. HAVING thus reflected on the common *Abuſes* of *Reputation*, all that remains is to conſider how injurious men are to themſelves in their ill managery of this Talent, which might be improved not only to their final account, but even their preſent pleaſure. For firſt, he that by ſeaſonable advice reſcues any man from a courſe of ſin, will infallibly feel ſo unutterable a complacency in having done ſo, that he will find he was kind to himſelf, as well as the other, and will have no temptation to think himſelf unprofitably imployed, though that were to be his only Reward. This bringing ſinners to repentance is ſo noble, ſo tempting a deſign, that it drew even God himſelf from Heaven to proſecute it; and that not by cheap and eaſie means, but by all thoſe Sufferings, which humane Nature moſt

trembles at: yet such was *the joy* of Man's salvation, which was *set before him*, as enabled him to *endure the Cross, and despise the shame*, *Heb.* 12.2. How rich a bargain will it then be to a man to partake with him in that joy, to share with him in that prize, upon so much easier terms, to pay but a little breath for that which exhausted his blood, and to become (in a lower inferior sence) a Saviour without a Cross?

27. IN like manner, he that by a strict and exemplary conversation sets himself up a *landmark* to direct men in this turbulent and dangerous Sea, his light, 'tis true, goes forth to others, but the warmth and cherishing heat of it remains within his own breast. What chearful, what exulting reflexions may he make upon himself, that can make good St. *Paul*'s protestation, *Acts* 20. 26. that *he is pure from the blood of all men?* That he hath not by any scandalous Example ensnared any soul; but on the contrary hath by positive illustrious acts of Vertue endeavoured so to adorn his Christian Profession, as to draw in Proselytes not to the Name, but the obedience of Christ? That hath made it his business to stand in the Gap, not only by his Intercessions with God against the Plagues, but by his endeavours with Men against the sins of the Nation, and by a steady opposing himself against the inundation of profaneness and licentiousness, hath invited others to give some stop to those impure torrents? It has always been accounted so glorious a thing to redeem ones Countrey from slavery, that men have

have thought their greateſt hazards amply paid with the Title of a Patriot. But there is no vaſſallage ſo ignoble, no ſervitude ſo miſerable, as that of Vice, and conſequently no attempt ſo worthy, ſo ingenuous, ſo ſatisfactory to the undertaker, as to break that yoke. He that aſpires to no more than a private Innocence, is only on the defenſive part, ſtands upon his guard againſt Satan: but he that aims at this ſort of publick Reformations, maintains an invaſive War againſt him, and ſo more ſhakes his kingdom. The reducing of any ſinner is the diſpoſſeſſing him of ſo much of his uſurpt territory, and weakens his Empire in the world. This is indeed the true *Publick Spirit*: which though many have pretended to, from whom we diſcern nothing of theſe effects: yet thoſe very pretenſions bear witneſs to the excellency of the thing, and ought to animate men to be indeed, what ſo many have coveted to be thought.

28. I SUPPOSE I need not go on to the other inſtance: every mans ſenſe, without conſulting either his Reaſon or Religion, will be able to pronounce, that 'tis better to be in Peace than Hoſtility, to have a whole than a wounded body, to keep ſecurely his own ſtation, than to be hunted like a *Partridge on the Mountains* by the *Avenger of Blood.* The greater is the Miracle, that men who in all other inſtances devote themſelves wholly to their ſenſuality, ſhould here only abjure it; that when body and ſoul come in competition, live as if they had no ſoul, yet up-

on this occasion can dare, as if they had no bodies. Oh that men should be such ill husbands of their sufferings, and thus enhance Satan's markets! Alas, *Hell* is a Purchase will never be taken out of their hands; how many Chapmen soever they see about it, they may secure their Estate there firm enough by those sins they have more gust of; why should they be thus madly prodigal to out-bid the common rate? Must *Gentlemen* buy Damnation, as they usually do Wares, dearer than other men? How is Perdition become so amiable, that like *Rachael a double servitude* is judged light for it; whilst Heaven in the mean time, like *Leah*, is so much *despised*, that 'tis thought an injury to have that obtruded on them, though upon the easiest terms? Certainly they are strange transforming *Opticks* which these men make use of. Would God they could be but perswaded, if not to break, yet at least for a while to lay by those false *Glasses*, and behold things in their genuine and proper shapes: and then I doubt not they will discern that Honour to be infamy, which sets men at defiance with God; and that Reputation then alone becomes estimable, when like a River it pays its Tribute to the Ocean, promotes his glory, at whose feet Kings (without diminution) cast both themselves and Crowns.

SECT.

SECT. IX.

THE CONCLUSION.

1. *WE have now according to our proposed Method, surveyed distinctly those several* Advantages *which* Gentlemen *enjoy, and may surely give the same testimony which* Caleb *and* Joshua *did of* Canaan, *Numb.* 14. The Land which we passed thorow to search it, is an exceeding good Land. *'Tis a rich and fertile Soil wherein these men are planted, such as hath a natural aptitude and vigour to produce the most excellent Fruits. But* Paradise *itself required dressing, and therefore we find* Adam *had that work assigned him in his Innocence. And surely these his Sons may well submit to the same Task, by the faithful discharge whereof they may make some approaches towards that his pristine state.*

2. IT *need not be again inculcated, that all these their Receits have their special and particular ends in Gods assignment. 'Twill be more useful to remember them, how nearly they are concerned not to pervert the Counsel of God against themselves, by neglecting to give them their due expected improvements. For though he be a most liberal, yet is he not a negligent Master, but keeps an exact and punctual*

account of whatever he thus delivers out, and will not fail severely to avenge the embezeling of his Goods. Indeed such an abuse has so Fatal an Efficacy, that it quite changes their Nature, converts them from blessings to the heavieſt Curses: would God too many men had not thus exemplified their own deſtructive power, and by a kind of Anti-creation *brought Darkneſs out of Light.*

3. *BUT 'tis pity they ſhould be permitted to ſleep in that Darkneſs, which themſelves have made. And therefore if this* little Tract *ſhall fall into any ſuch hands, it muſt avow to come upon that uncivil, yet friendly Errand, to diſturb their reſt, to awake them to ſome Conſideration, and as* Philip's *Monitour was to* remember him, that he was but a Man, *ſo to put them in mind, that in the midſt of their freeſt enjoyments they are ſtill but* Stewards, *and know not how ſoon their* Lord *may ſummon them to their Accounts. And with what confuſion and conſternation muſt they appear at the great* Audit, *who have ſo unfaithfully managed their truſt? 'Tis therefore now no longer time to dally, but by an aſſiduous care and diligence to endeavour to redeem their paſt ill-husbandry, leſt they run the Fate of that* Evil Servant *mentioned,* Matth. 24. *be ſurprized in the midſt of their Inordinacies, and have their* portion *aſſigned them in* weeping and gnaſhing of teeth.

4. *AND now what Objection can they poſſibly make againſt this ſo neceſſary a Caution, which is founded upon ſuch Motives, as ſhould methinks infallibly prevail upon all ſorts of tempers? If they*

have

have any sense of Fear, here are those Terrors of the Lord, which are amazing enough to set even a Belshazzar (*though with the Cup at his Mouth, his Concubines by his side*) a trembling. *Certainly he must not be only frozen but petrified in desperate impiety, whom even a glimpse of those eternal flames will not be able to dissolve.*

5. *But if* Fear (*though of God*) *be too degenerous a Passion for a* Gentleman *to own, this advice can upon as good grounds address it self to their* Hope: *there is as well the* Joy of the Lord *for the* Faithful, *as the* outer Darkness *for the* unprofitable Servant. *For though God have Right of absolute Dominion, and might exact obedience on his bare command; yet he is more pleased to shew himself a Benefactor than a Lord, and therefore descends to treat with men by the more gentle and inviting methods of Promises and Rewards. Nay indeed the end of his Commands is only to make us capable Subjects of those Eternal Felicities he desires to bestow. And this surely is enough to excite men to a diligent negotiating with those Talents they have received, since it is indeed themselves they are trading for. The stock it is true is Gods, but all the increase of it will by his bounty certainly devolve on them. And therefore as* Naaman's *Servants thought the cure he was in pursuit of, deserved a submission to the severest Prescriptions,* If the Prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldst thou not have done it? 2 *Kings* 5. 3. *So surely we may conclude those endless Joys proposed by God,*

are cheaply earned even by the most exhausting Labours, *the most vigorous Tasks.*

6. BUT *such is the tenderness and Indulgence of our gracious Master, so earnest his desire of his dispensing his Rewards that he will not trust mens sloth and folly with such a pretence of defeating themselves; and therefore hath annexed no such Condition. We have seen, through all the several parts of Duty, which constitute the* Gentleman's Calling, *that they are of a quite distant frame, not Toils but Refreshments, not Yokes but Crowns, such as differ only in size from those Celestial ones to which they tend; so that here is bait even to the greatest Voluptuary. And who that observes how many such there be, would expect this* Fruit of Paradise *should still hang untouched? Yet such a prepostrous Temperance have they put on, that they are proof against all these allurements. Good God! what contradictions are men made up of! It is the business of their lives to pursue pleasures, and yet when those of the most refined and exquisite sort would run into their embraces, they grow coy, and cannot be courted to receive them. We daily see the Devil hath his* Martyrs: *it seems he hath his* Asceticks *too. And so witty is the World grown in creating sins, that they have found out a* sin of self-denial. *Would God these absurd Mortifiers might be perswaded to remit somewhat of their severity. The most rigid* Orders *in Religion have still indulged some relaxation, some times of Festivity: why should Satan's Votaries be so much more Zealous than God's, as to make their abstinences so perpetual?*

7. IT

7. IT *speaks indeed the Cruelty of that Master they serve, but so it does his* Policy *also. He well knows that if these Divine Lights should but insinuate themselves, they would soon undermine his whole Foundation: so ravishing and attractive are they, that nothing but a perfect* Ignorance *of them can be Amulet sufficient against their Charms. And therefore it is his necessary concern to keep men from ever tasting of them, the least relish whereof would be sure to make them despise all his adulterated Delicacies. So we see he can give some rational account of his part of the matter. But what can Men say for themselves, who play his Game for him, even when their own Souls are at the stake, that at once renounce that Eternal interest, and Present pleasure? This is indeed in* David's *Phrase,* 2 Sam. 3. 33. to die as a Fool dieth. *Their hands are not bound, nor their feet put into fetters; no extrinsick hindrance lies on them, why they may not* stretch forth their Hand to *this* Tree of life, and eat and live *happily here, and gloriously* for ever. *And yet like* Solomon's *sluggard* they hide their hands in their bosom, and will not so much as bring them to their mouths, *Prov.* 19. 24.

8. *THIS is so stupid a Folly, as none that pretends to common sence, would in any worldly concernment be guilty of. Will any man renounce a rich unchargeable Reversion, when he is not only wooed, but bribed by a considerable Sum in hand not to disclaim it? I fear there are few so* mortified to Wealth, *as to do it upon the score of Self-denial; and sure no*

man

man would be thought in his wits, that ſhould do it upon any other. For what jealouſies ſoever he had entertained of the Security, or Value of that future Eſtate, yet the preſent viſible profit would deſerve his conſideration. There is but one circumſtance imaginable, that could reaſonably avert him, and that is the ſuſpicion of Deceit, *that the Coin which is offered him is falſe and adulterate. And that I may not be under a neceſſity of pronouncing ſo many men mad, I ſhall ſuppoſe it not unlikely that this ſcruple may occur to them in the preſent Caſe. They have ſo long brought all their* Bullion *to Satan's Mint, ſuffered him to ſtamp their Pleaſures, that none will now paſs for current with them, which has not his Impreſs: and upon this account 'tis too probable they may diſtruſt the validity of the preſent Payment, diſbelieve the pleaſantneſs of thoſe* Duties *I have here recommended to their Enjoyment, as well as Practice. Nor ſhall I deſire to impoſe on their belief, but ſhall very willingly wave their Faith, and appeal to their* Senſe. *But then they muſt remember, that that is uncapable of judging by any other means but* Experience: *and therefore if all that has been addreſt to their* Reaſon *be ineffectual, that remains as the laſt reſerve for their convincement. Let every one of them ſeriouſly and conſcientiouſly ſet to the* Practice, *(and allow only for ſo much of difficulty, as naturally attends the interrupting a contrary Cuſtom) and then let him if he can, doubt of the Pleaſure. Let him allow himſelf but this one* Medium *to infer it, and I ſhall defie his diſſent*

to

to the Concluſion. *Let him* ſow *with me this handful of Seed* in the Tears *of true Contrition for remembring his Duty and Intereſts ſo late, and I ſhall reſt confident* he will reap in joy *in this World, and carry the news of it to another, even thither alſo* bring his ſheaves with him, abundance of Fruit to his account, *be bleſt here, and crown'd eternally.*

FINIS.

PRIVATE DEVOTIONS.

LONDON,
Printed for *Robert Pawlet*, at the Sign of the Bible in *Chancery-Lane*, near *Fleetstreet*,
M DC LXIII.

A Confession.

O BLESSED Lord, I thy wretched Creature, thy not only unprofitable and slothful, but wicked Servant, do here prostrate my self at thy Feet, humbly acknowledging that I have most perversly and most treacherously mis-imployed those many precious Talents wherewith thou hast intrusted me. I have, O Lord, unworthily abused those common Mercies which thou hast afforded me as a Man, and a Christian, my whole life having been a continued resistance to the Dictates both of Reason and Religion. But I have yet farther perverted those more special Liberalities of thine, whereby thou hast assayed to vanquish and melt an ungrateful heart. My Knowledge hath had no influence on my Choices, but I have obstinately pursued those ways, which I knew led to the Chambers of Death, and by advancing my Sins from Ignorances to Presumptions, hath served only to render me liable to the greater number of stripes. That Wealth whereby I should have glorified Thee, and succoured my Brethren, I have converted into

into fuel to maintain and accend my Covetouſneſs, Pride and Luxury, ſo levying War againſt thee with thine own Treaſure. Thus unfaithful, O Lord, have I been in the unrighteous Mammon; and who then ſhall commit to my truſt the true Riches? I have waſted that Time thou haſt given me, to work out my own Salvation, vainly and impertinently, nay often ſo viciouſly and impiouſly, that Idleneſs, though a Crying ſin of *Sodom*, hath been the ſilenteſt of my guilts, the greater portion of my Days having been devoted either to the purſuit or enjoyment of my brutiſh Pleaſures, ſo making it my buſineſs to provide for the Fleſh to fulfil the Luſts thereof; and of thoſe many Days and Years thou haſt afforded me, how few minutes are there of which I can give any tolerable account to Thee, or my own Soul? Nay, O Lord, as if my ſingle and perſonal Impieties had been too little, I have propagated them to Others, and have made that Authority and Eſteem, which thou gaveſt me for better purpoſes, the means of enſnaring all whom my Intereſt or Example could ſeduce. And now, O Lord, how unknown aſtoniſhing a weight of guilt do I lie under, that am to anſwer for ſo many Sins of Other men, as well as my ſelf, that have thus been a Snare on *Mizpah*, and a Net ſpread on Mount *Tabor*, the Inſtrument of entangling and betraying ſo many Souls? O merciful Lord, who delighteſt not in the death of a ſinner, look with pity

pity both on them, and me; Give me a ſincere and earneſt Repentance, for my own offences, and if it be thy bleſſed will, make me ſome way inſtrumental to the begetting the like in them, that I may be as contributive to their Recovery, as I have been to their Fall: And let the conſciouſneſs of my great Sloth and Unfaithfulneſs in all the parts of my Stewardſhip, excite me to a more diligent and induſtrious improvement of all thoſe advantages, thou haſt put into my hands, for thy glory, the benefit of my Brethren, and the eternal joy of my own Soul. Grant this, O gracious Lord, for his ſake who came to Call ſinners to Repentance, Jeſus Chriſt our Lord.

A Thanksgiving.

O MOST gracious and moſt bountiful Lord, who doſt good unto all, but haſt in an extraordinary meaſure abounded to me thy unworthieſt Servant. I deſire with all exuberant thankfulneſs of heart, to confeſs and celebrate this thy great goodneſs. Lord, thou haſt not been to me a Wilderneſs, a Land of Darkneſs, but haſt cauſed my Lot to fall in a fair ground. Thou haſt

not only given me a Natural, and a capacity of a Spiritual life, but haſt alſo enriched me with many advantages for the comfortable ſupport of the one, and the happy improvement of the other, above what thou affordeſt to multitudes of others. Thou haſt liberally given me of the Dew of Heaven, and fatneſs of the Earth, an aſſurance of all thoſe good things which may both oblige and aſſiſt me chearfully to ſerve Thee. O let not my Heart like *Gideon's* Fleece remain dry, whileſt all about it is thus plentifully watered from Heaven; but give me, I beſeech thee, ſuch a ſenſe of thy Mercy, as may expreſs itſelf in a conſtant and zealous Obedience. Thou haſt done ſo much for this meaneſt Plant in thy Vineyard, dreſt it and fenced it about with Thy Grace and Providence; and having built a Wine-preſs, mayeſt moſt reaſonably expect ſome Cluſters to be brought to it at the Vintage. O let not ſo gracious, ſo equitable a demand be fruſtrated; when thou lookeſt it ſhould bring forth Grapes, let it not bring forth wild Grapes; let not thoſe Advantages I enjoy above others, tempt me to exalt my ſelf, or deſpiſe them, but grant me always to remember that it is Thou only that makeſt me differ from another. Lord, let thy Methods be my Documents, thy Diſpenſations of Indulgence towards me, the Engagements and Bands of the cloſeſt and moſt inviolable Duty, that that

Eminency

Eminency of condition wherein Thou hast placed me in this world, may be an effectual Admonition to me to be eminent in Vertue, that Men seeing my good Works, may glorifie Thee my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord and blessed Saviour.

A Prayer.

O THOU most Righteous and Impartial Judge, who despisest not the mean, nor acceptest the persons of the Mighty, Make me always to remember and seriously to consider, that none of those outward Priviledges I enjoy among men, can exempt me from thy severe Tribunal, but that I shall one day be brought to Judgment, as for all that I have done in the flesh, so particularly for those special and peculiar Advantages, whereby thou hast discriminated me from my meaner Brethren: And oh let these Terrors of the Lord timely perswade, yea constrain me to a chearful imploying of all I have received, to those ends for which thou hast bestowed them. Lord grant that the Knowledge thou hast given me may have such an efficacy on my Practice, that it may always guide, never upbraid me.

And as thou haſt opened thy hand wide to me in temporal plenty, ſo enlarge my heart in Thankfulneſs towards Thee, and in Compaſſion and Bounty toward thy poor Members: I am not ſtraitned by thee, O let me not be ſtraitned in my own bowels; let neither Covetouſneſs nor Riot make me poor in the midſt of Riches, but grant me that true Enjoyment which Conſiſts in a Charitable diſpenſing of them, that forſaking all the unſatisfying nauſeated pleaſures of Luxury, I may purchaſe to my ſelf that more ſolid tranſcending delight of ſuccouring the diſtreſſes of my fellow-Chriſtians. Lord, ſuffer not my wealth to be only a lading with thick Clay, nor the Ruſt of it to bear witneſs againſt me, but rather make me of the number of thoſe that need relief, than of thoſe who want hearts to give it. And ſince in thy gracious Providence thou haſt placed me in a condition of eaſe and vacancy, O let me not pervert it into a life of Idleneſs and Senſuality, let me not be leſs, but better buſied than other men. O never ſuffer me to incur the guilt of reproach of being more remiſs or indifferent in my entercourſe with Thee, than others are of their traffique with the World, of having leſs care of my own and other mens immortal Souls, than they have of their corruptible bodies; but make me ſo induſtriouſly to husband every minute of that precious Time thou lendeſt me here, as may

be

be in order to a bleſſed Eternity both of my ſelf, and as many more as thou ſhalt put within my reach. O let not any perſons ever have cauſe to accuſe their relation to me, for betraying them to Sin here, or Miſery hereafter; but grant that all that are under my care or power, may receive ſuch wholſome influence from me, as may nouriſh all Chriſtian Practice among them; And, Lord, grant that my Example may be ſuch to all, that I never prove to any an occaſion of Falling: Let me never contribute to that power and empire which Vice has gotten in the world, but with a ſteady courage oppoſe all Impiety, how cuſtomary or ſucceſsful ſoever; Let me think nothing Honourable, but what bears thy ſtamp and impreſs on it, but engage, and animate, and inflame my benumm'd breaſt, to the moſt eager and vigorous endeavour of recovering diſcountenanc'd Vertue to ſome eſteem and reputation among men. And, O Lord, grant that by an aſſiduous Practice of all Duty, I may arrive to ſuch a guſt and reliſh of it, as may utterly ſupplant any ſenſual delights in my own heart, and may alſo qualifie me experimentally to aſſure others how ſweet the Lord is, that I may be an effectual (though unworthy) Inſtrument in thy hand of drawing many to the Obedience of Chriſt, and that renouncing all the vain torturing Ambitions of this World, I may aſpire to no other honour but that of being approved

by Thee as a good and faithful Servant; that by thy mercy having my infirmities covered, and my Sincerity accepted, I may at last be admitted into the Joy of my Lord, through the merits of Jesus Christ my blessed Saviour and Mediator. *Amen.*

FINIS.

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